Practical Ways to Improve Teaching and Learning in Your Classes

Natalie J. Ciarocco

Monmouth University SPSP 2019



Skill Development for Psychology Majors



SPSP2019



(Fabris, 2015)

Jeb Bush: Psych majors work at Chickfil-A

by Curt Mills | October 24, 2015 11:16 AM



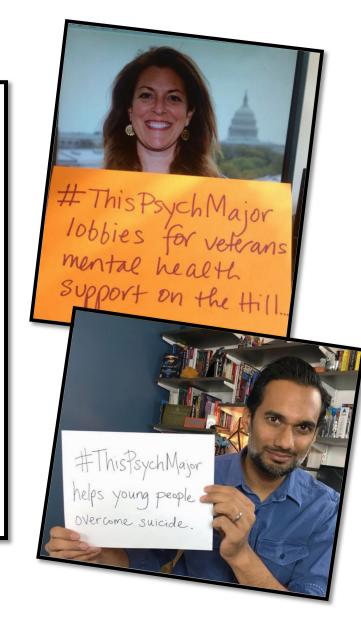




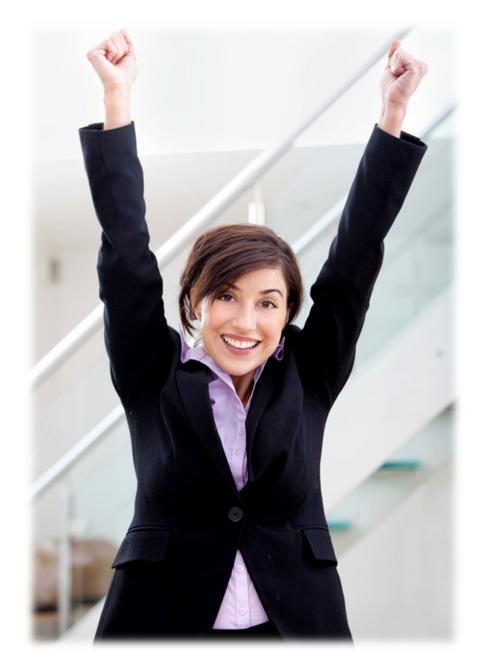


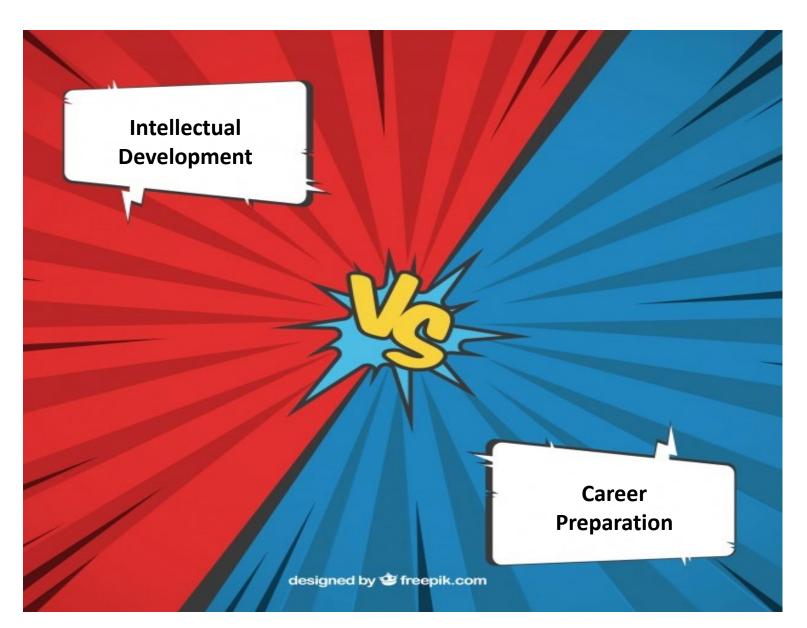


"We have huge shortages of electricians, welders, plumbers, information technologists, teachers," Bush said at Sen. Tim Scott's town hall event Saturday. (Paul Zoeller/The Post And Courier via AP)



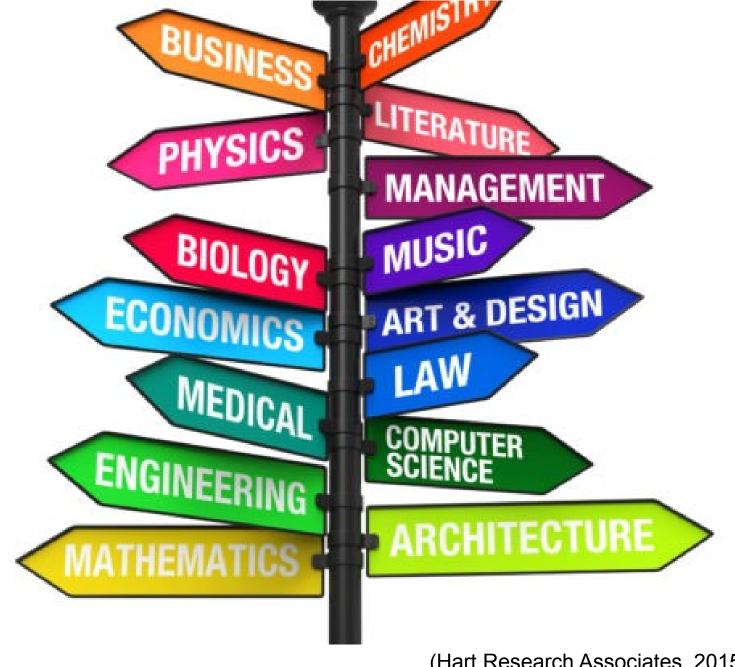




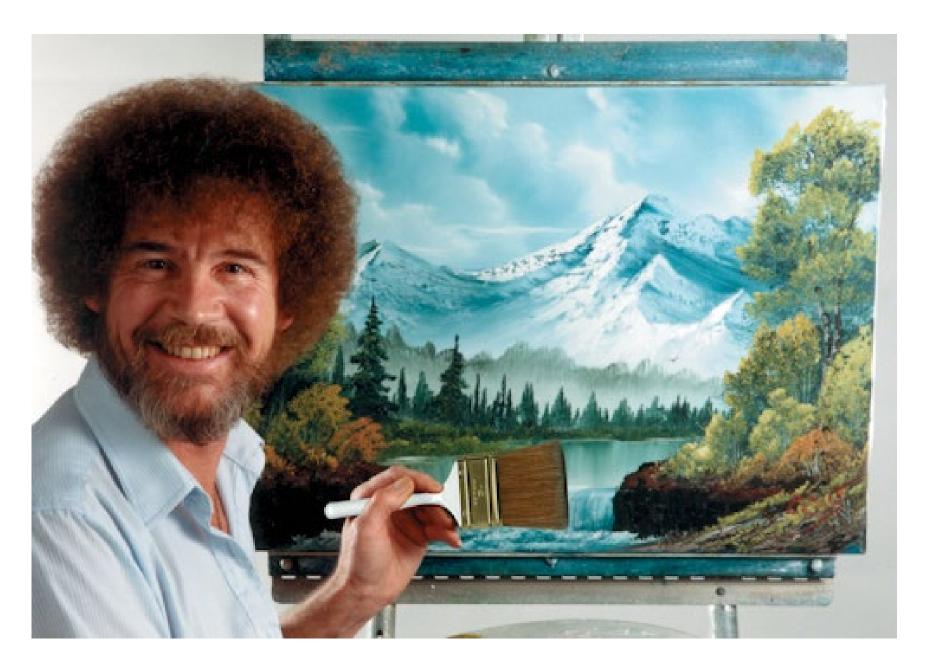




(Lin, Christidis & Stamm, 2017)



(Hart Research Associates, 2015)



What skills do employers value?



Skills for Career Success



- Communication skills
- Critical thinking & Research skills
- Collaboration skills
- Self-management skills
- Professional skills
- Technological skills
- Ethical skills

(Appleby, 2014)



Promoting Skill Development in Your Courses

intentional

in · ten · tion · al

Adjective: Done on purpose; deliberate.

Suggestion #1: Strengthen Communication Skills

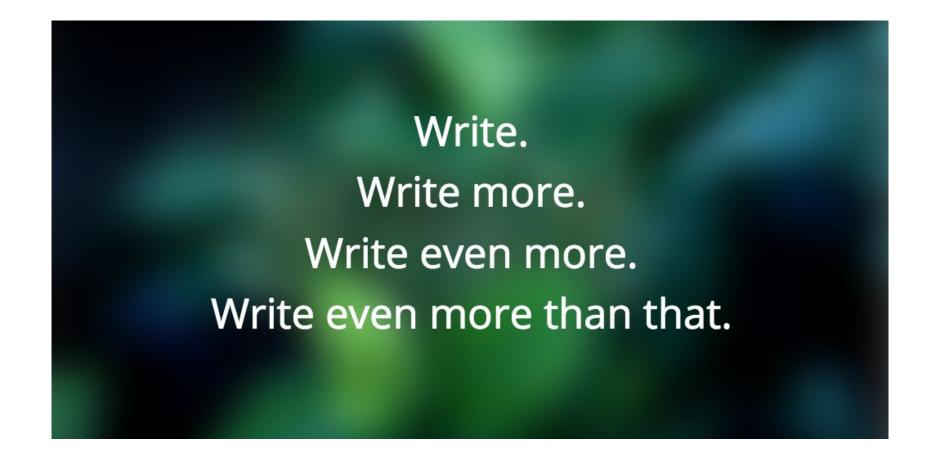


Is Mastering APA Style the Key to Effective Communication?



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How Does One Improve as a Writer?



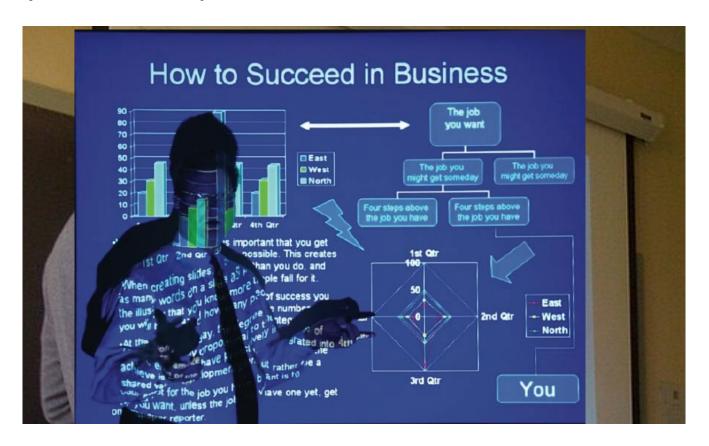
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Other Types of Communication Skills?



Teach <u>How</u> to Give Effective Presentations

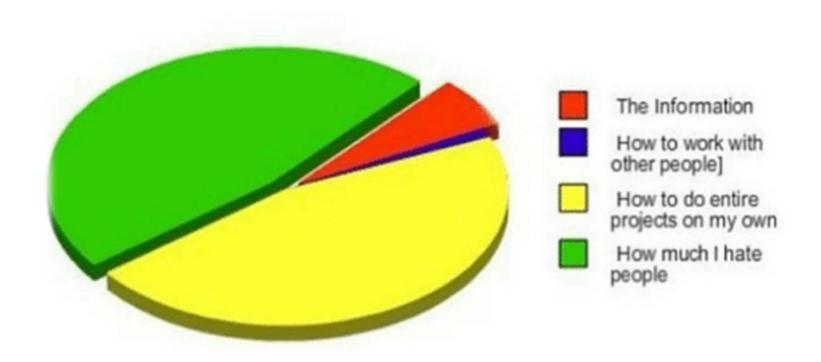
Have you ever experienced this?



Suggestion #2: Strengthen Teamwork & Collaboration Skills



What I Learn from Group Projects



Suggestion #3: Expand Technological Skills









Don't Know How to Do Something?



Suggestion #4: Emphasize Employable Skills

- List specific skills practiced in syllabus
- Talk about on first day of class
- List skills practiced on each assignment
- Practice makes perfect!
- Talk about skills on last day of class
 - Link skills to the specific things they did in class
 - Talk about adding them to their resumes



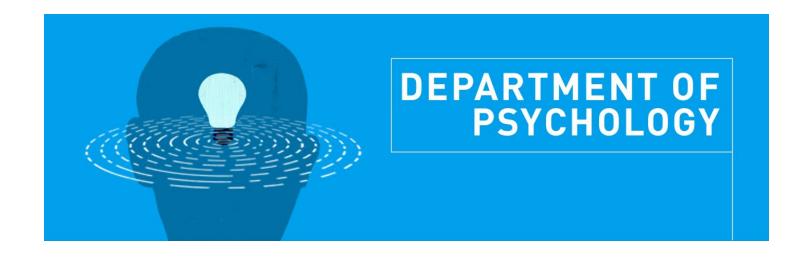
HELLO AM I...

EMPLOYABLE?

Employable Skills Self-Efficacy Survey (ESSES)

(Ciarocco & Strohmetz, 2018)

Department Use



Professor Use



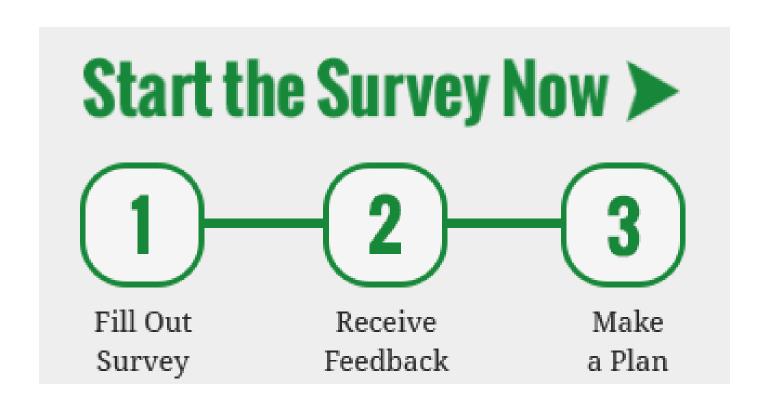
Student Use





www.employableskills.com

www.employableskills.com





Take the survey!

1 Questions 1-20

2 Questions 21-40

3 Questions 41-51

4 Demographics

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

- 1. I feel comfortable working in group settings.
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

- 2. I would rather be the person who gets to lead a group project.
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

- 3. People easily understand what I mean when I am talking to them.
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Somewhat Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree



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Communication Skills

Being able to communicate clearly and effectively with others is one of the most important skills to possess when applying for a job. In fact, it is usually a top priority in the mind of any potential employers (Appleby, 2014). Being able to properly write and speak when conveying different goals and ideas tends to lead to more promotions. Poor written or verbal communication, along with difficulty following written or verbal commonly are commonly noted reason new college hires are reprimanded. Communication includes reading skills, writing skills, speaking skills, and listening skills.

Writing

Your Score: 5.5

Your Level: High

Reading

Your Score: 4

Your Level: Average

How You Can Improve Your Reading Skills

Other than when pleasure reading, always take notes to facilitate a better understanding of what is being read (Bohay, Tamplin, & Radvansky, 2011). When taking notes, avoid merely summarizing the text and actually try to draw conclusions by evaluating the arguments made by the author (Browne, Freeman & Williamson, 2000). Avoid distractions such as texting while reading (Fante & Sexton, 2013). Not only will you complete the reading faster, you will be developing good habits for successfully for meeting deadlines in college or at work.



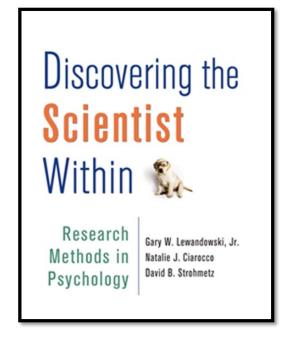


Questions?

Skill Development for Psychology Majors

Practical Ways to Improve Teaching and Learning in Your Classes

Natalie J. Ciarocco nciarocc@monmouth.edu







Practical Ways to Improve Teaching and Learning in Your Classes: Teaching for Social Justice-Related Outcomes

Jamie Franco-Zamudio, PhD
Spring Hill College



Personal Note:

Reasons for Intentionally "Teaching for Social Justice"

- Students are not learning one discipline at a time. Goal: Connect information across classes and integrate into the knowledge they gain from the 24-hour news outlets and social media.
- There is a growing push to examine the legitimacy of social and political systems. Students often claim the desire to be an agent of change.
- Learning new concepts and schemas in classes is essentially consciousnessraising. When students learn about social issues, they are often taught about the issue without learning how to make change. They often ask for tools to engaging unfair and unjust systems and policies.
- As we know, youth are often the most radical and strongest proponents of revolutionary change. As educators, we recognize their frustrations and are well-suited to provide them with applications of psychological theory that will enable them to become advocates and allies – regardless of their final careerchoice.

Teaching Social for Justice

- Defining social justice
 - "...social justice includes a vision of society in which the distribution of resources is equitable and all members physically and psychologically safe and secure" (Bell, 1997, p. 1).
- Psychological aspects of social justice
 - O Rules, norms, attitudes (Lee, 2011)
 - Product (i.e., goals) and process (i.e., how to achieve the goals; Bell, 1997)
- Teaching for social justice includes a focus on
 - O Ethical values, care, and respect (Marshal & Olivia, 2006)
 - O Fairness (Crosby & Franco, 2003; Rawls, 2001)
 - O Moral responsibility (Kohl, 2001)
 - O **Power** (Apfelbaum, 1979; Deaux & Bikmen, 2010; Green, 1998; Young, 1993)

Liberation Psychology

- Instead of a top-down examination, Martín-Baró argues for a bottom up examination of people's lives.
- Martín-Baró asserts that a contextualized, historical analysis will better reflect the psychology of oppressed peoples (Martin-Baro).
 - o "Normal" isn't normal for all peoples.
 - "Unbiased routine methods" are actually biased in favor of the dominant, hegemonic "class," reifying the pathological and objectified descriptions of the oppressed (Martín-Baró, 1994).
 - "...the existing stereotypical order is consecrated as natural..." (Aron & Crowne, 1996, p. 3).
 - Psychology should help people understand their own realities, reflecting their own experience
 - "...psychologizing has served directly or indirectly, to strengthen the oppressive structures, by drawing attention away from them toward individual and subjective factors" (Aron & Crowne, 1996, p. 19)

Liberation Psychology in Practice

- Utilizing just frameworks and methodologies
 - Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
 - Participatory Action Research (PAR)
 - Reflective-Action and Reflective Practice (inspired by Dewey; Schön, 1983)
 - Transcommunality (Brown-Childs, 2003)
- Intentional assignments or courses
 - Reflections
 - Action-Assignments
 - Objectives
 - Perspective-taking, empathy, engagement, collaboration, awareness, personal transformation
 - Assessment
 - Service-learning and experiential-learning

Setting the Stage

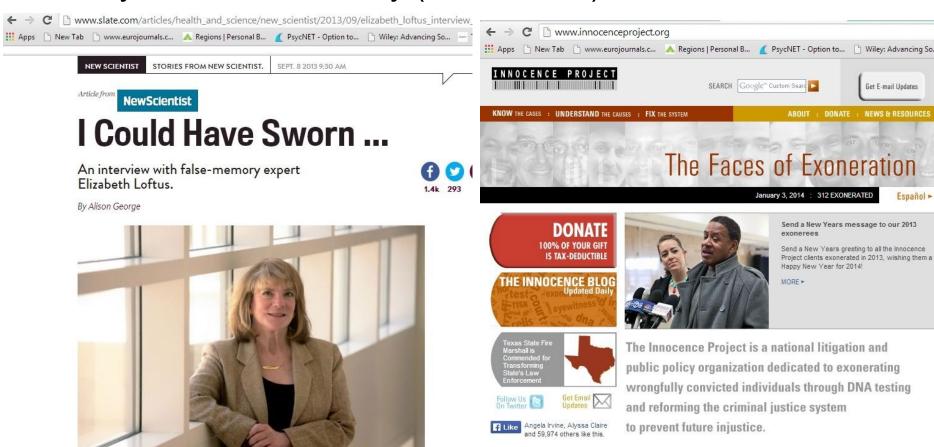
- During one of the first weeks of classes, have the students read the APA report on Generation Z
- Assign readings from the Yes! Magazine content for teachers: Teaching Social Justice https://www.yesmagazine.org/for-teachers/for-teachers/for-teachers/teaching-peace-justice
 - I assign the content from the "Let's Talk About Mental Health" section
 https://www.yesmagazine.org/for-teachers/curriculum/lets-talk-about-mental-health
- Brief readings:
- 5 Fake Facts About Mental Health Stigma
- The College Mental Health Crisis in 10 Sketches
- What is Barbershop Therapy?
- I Stopped Playing the Strong Black Woman
- The Surprising Link Between Your Mental Health and Everyone Else's
- Yes! Magazine also has student writing competitions, which I assign in relevant classes: https://www.yesmagazine.org/for-teachers/writing-competition

Weekly Online Assignments: Submissions in Alternative Formats

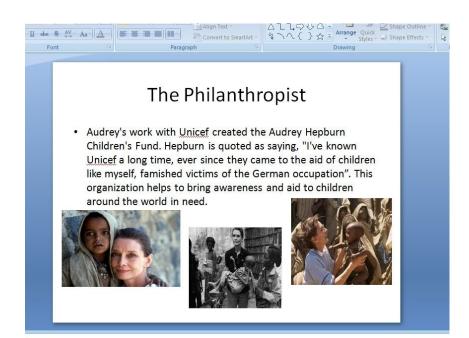
- *Source SNHU
- Personal note: I teach a 4/4 load and adjunct online each term. These assignments can be graded fairly quickly. I inform students that I will provide brief comments to set up any expectations regarding my feedback.

- Memory
 - Eyewitness testimony (Loftis, 1975)
- Motivation
 - Maslow's (1943) Theory of Human Motivation and the Hierarchy of Needs
- Social Psychology
 - Conformity and power of the situation (Haney, Banks, & Zimbardo, 1973)
 - Prosocial behavior

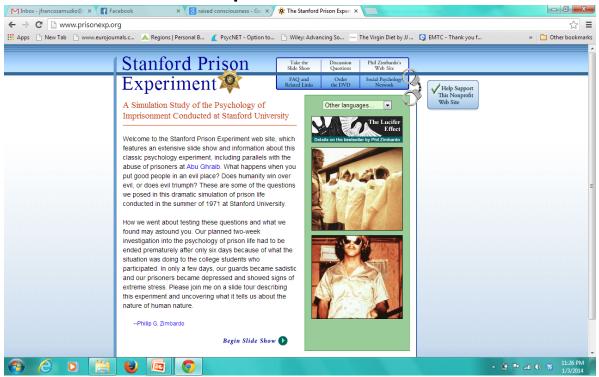
- Memory
 - Eyewitness testimony (Loftis, 1975)



- Motivation
 - Maslow's (1943) Theory of Human Motivation and the Hierarchy of Needs
 - Group project: Profile a self-actualized leader, hero, or celebrity
 - Students recognized the characteristic of social consciousness and a desire to "give back"



- Social Psychology chapter
 - Conformity and power of the situation
 - Stanford Prison Experiment (Haney, Banks, & Zimbardo, 1973)



Stanford Prison Experiment (Haney, Banks, & Zimbardo, 1973)

Haney

From Prison to Home: The Effect of Incarceration and Reentry on Children, Families, and Communities

The Psychological Impact of Incarceration: Implications for Post-Prison Adjustment

Craig Haney University of California, Santa Cruz

December 2001

[Project Home Page | List of Conference Papers]

Contents • Abstract

- I. The State of the Prisons
- II. The Psychological Effects of Incarceration: On the Nature of Institutionalization
- III. Special Populations and Pains of Prison Life
- IV. Implications for the Transition From Prison to Home
- V. Policy and Programmatic Responses to the Adverse Effects of Incarceration
- Endnotes

Abstract

This paper examines the unique set of psychological changes that many prisoners are forced to undergo in order to survive the prison experience. It argues that, as a result of several tre corrections, the personal challenges posed and psychological harms inflicted in the course of incarceration have grown over the last several decades in the United States. The trends incological and conditions of confinement as well as the much discussed de-emphasis on rehabilitation as a goal of incarceration. As a result, the ordinary adaptive process of institutionaliz has become extraordinarily prolonged and intense. Among other things, these recent changes in prison life mean that prisoners in general (and some prisoners in particular) face more di

Zimbardo

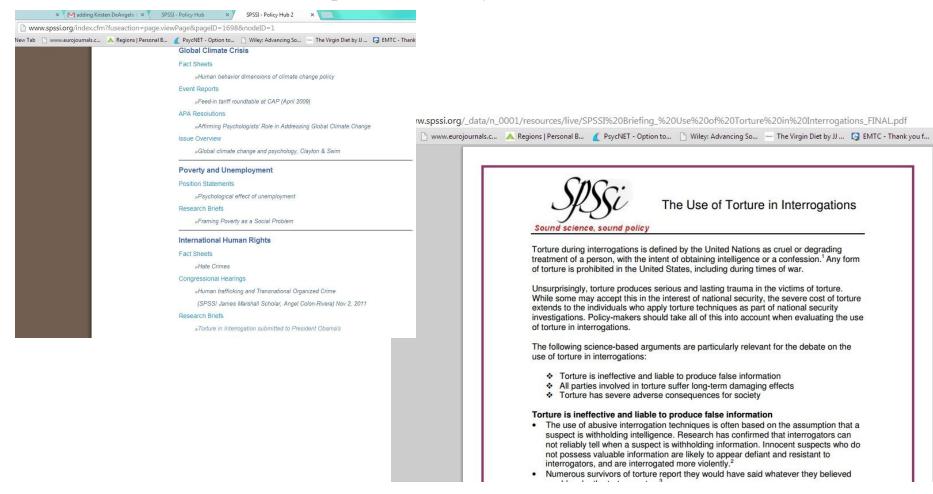


MONTEREY, California --Psychologist Philip Zimbardo has seen good people turn evil, and he thinks he knows why. Zimbardo will

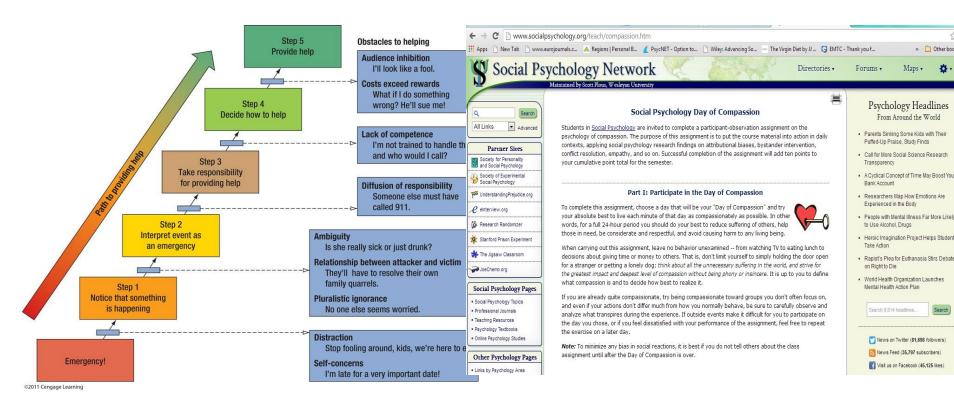
Zimbardo will speak Thursday afternoon at the TED conference, where he plans to illustrate his points by showing a three-minute video, obtained by Wired.com, that features many previously unseen photographs from



Stanford Prison Experiment (Haney, Banks, & Zimbardo, 1973)



- Social Psychology chapter
 - o Prosocial behavior-Experiential-learning assignment



- Lifespan Development
- Include Gender
 - Share the APA Guidelines on Working with Men and Boys https://www.apa.org/monitor/2019/01/ce-corner
 - Watch "The Mask You Live In"
 http://therepresentationproject.org/film/the-mask-you-live-in-film/



Experiential Learning: Taking Action



Kurt Lewin's Action Research

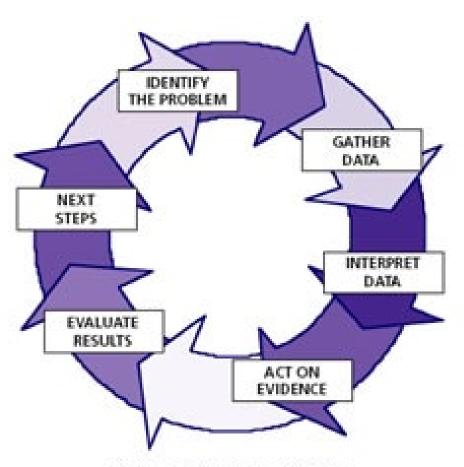


Figure 2. Action Research Cycle

Experiential Learning Cycles

Act

Concrete Experience
Facts (What Happened?)
Theory of Action



Apply

Active Experimentation
Futures (What Will I Do?)
Implement Revised Theory

Reflect

Reflective Observation Feelings (What Did I Experience?) Assess Behavior & Consequences



Conceptualize

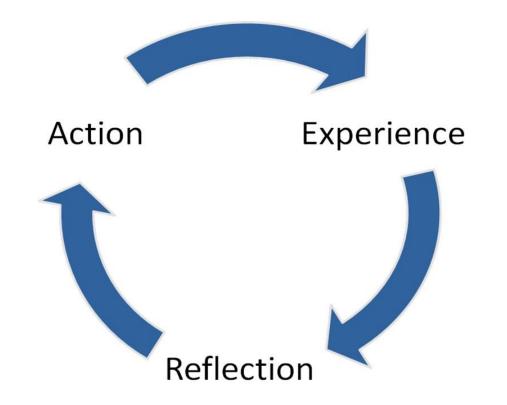
Abstract Conceptualization
Findings (Why Did
This Happen?)
Revise Theory

- 1. David Kolb
- 2. Roger Greenaway
- 3. Chris Argyris & Donald Schön

compiled by Andrea Corney

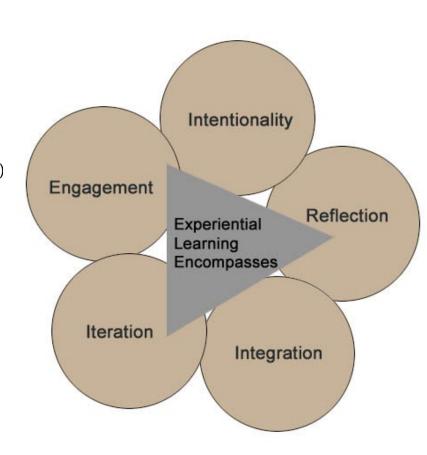
www.edbatista.com/2007/10/experiential.html

Jesuit Educational Philosophy



Experiential Learning Outcomes

- Civic engagement (Schlehofer, 2011)
- Perspective-taking (Eretzian, 2011)
- Raised-consciousness (Lechuga & Clerc, 2009)
- Personal transformation (Butler Byrd, 2005)
- Multiple "ways of knowing" and critical thinking skills (Archer & Wong, 2010)
- Collective action and advocacy (Franco, 2005)



To "Be of Use"

"...social researchers have a public responsibility to disrupt the sense of inevitability and to engage with communities on questions of justice and the inequitable distribution of freedom, goods, and opportunities" (Fine & Barreras, 2004, p. 176)

Fine & Barreras' Recommendations

- Working with the media
- Writing for policymakers
- Creating amicus briefs
- Constructing op-ed or "popular" articles
- Converting our findings into accessible language without watering down the conclusions
- Testifying in federal and state legislatures
- Research collaborations with community-based organizations
- Creating "translation" documents from rigorous research for popular, community and local use
- Participatory action research: possibilities and dilemmas
- Constituency building: creating social science—"literate" and activist communities
- Workshops on the critical use of publicly accessible databases and the creation of alternative indicators of "well-being" within education, mental health, physical health, and psychosocial contexts
- Developing and collaborating with youth researchers
- Constructing a high school curriculum for adolescent researchers
- Creating public service announcements from social science research
- Translating research into practice (educational, organizational, and/or movement based)
- Public art as a form of re-presenting critical scholarship: museums, parks, photo exhibits, videos to "disseminate" research findings

Upper-level Psychology Classes: Examples of Experiential Learning Assignments

Social Psychology of Social Justice

- I. Service-learning
- II. "Taking Action" writing assignments

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

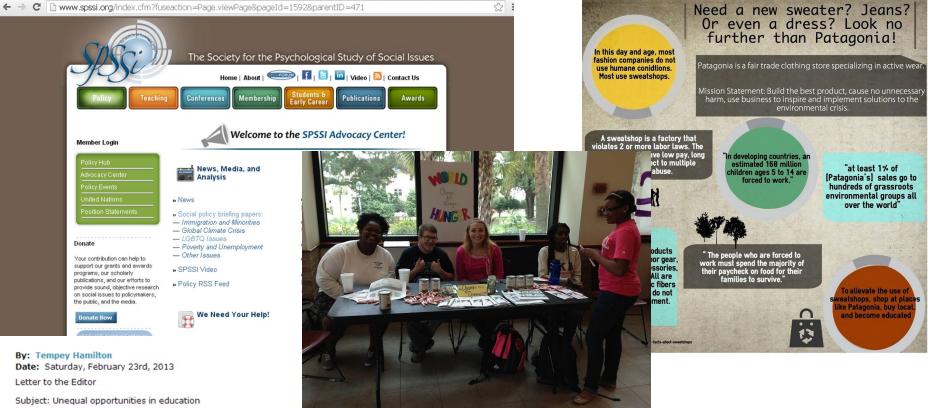
- I. Creation of workshop content
- II. Project for local non-profit organization

Upper-level Psychology Classes: Examples of Experiential Learning Assignments

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 - Develop and collaborate with youth researchers
 - Create public service announcements from social science research
 - Translate research into practice (educational, organizational, and/or movement based)

Experiential Learning: Action Assignments Social Psychology of Social Justice



To Editor:

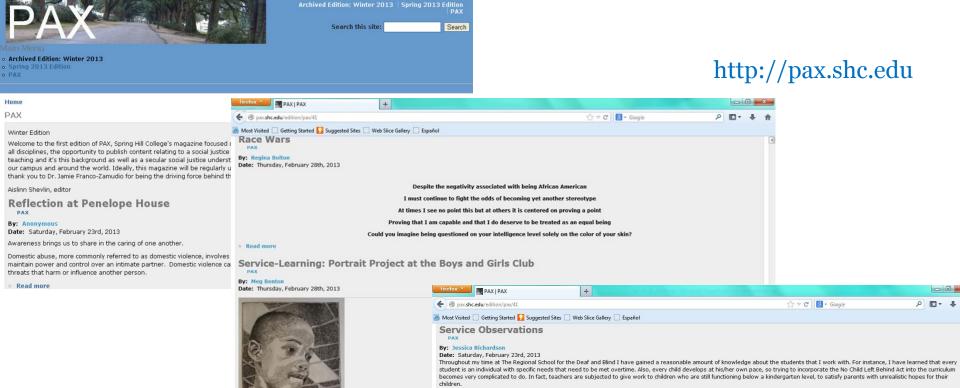
Date Sent: October 2, 2012

The racial issues in reference to education that W.E.B Du Bois addressed and fought for in the 20th century did not die with him. While other great black leaders during this time pushed for African Americans to accept their superior position and learn crafts, industrial skills, farming skills and other trades that mainstream society saw as inferior, Du Bois wanted equality for African Americans. However, blacks and whites did not have an equal opportunity to become doctors, lawyers, and nurses. Americans today like to believe that those days of inequality and discrimination are over. They are not. This fact is not more evident than in our educational system.

Schools in America were segregated until as late as the 1960s in some areas. Although legal segregation no longer exists, there is still racial segregation in schools and there is a discrepancy in the quality of education received by students of color versus students who are white. When the schools were legally segregated, whites received the better teachers, facilities, and resources, while black schools received what was left over or what was simply not good enough for the whites. Black schools today still receive inferior teachers, facilities, and resources. Statistics show that black and Latino students are more segregated now than they were 20 years ago. The student's ethnicities are 95% black 4% white 2% Hispanic. The majority of private schools are occupied by white children from wealthy families. It is no one's fault that a particular child is given the advantage of going to a better school because they can afford a private school. However the public school system is supposed to provide everyone with an egual opportunity to a guality education and frankly it does not do this.

Most of the time, the inferior schools are located in areas with families that hold low socio- economic status. However, a parent's financial standing should not limit a child's opportunity to

Student Initiated Project: Spring Hill College's Peace and Justice Online Magazine



» Read more

By: Caitlyn Murphy
Date: Thursday, February 28th, 2013

Alabama Focus First Service Reflection

Service-Learning: Portrait Project at Little Sister's of the Poor

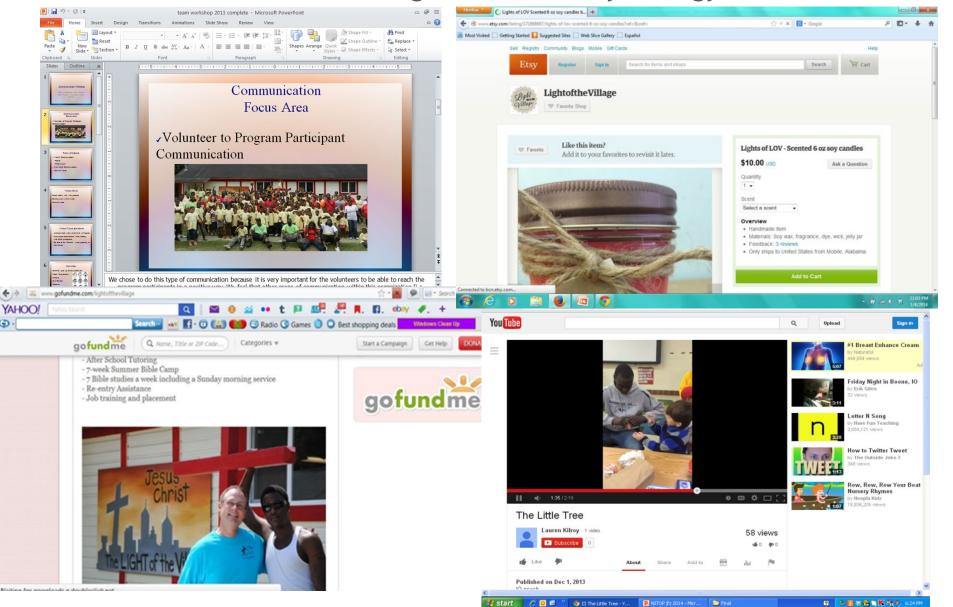
Caitlyn Murphy

Upper-level Psychology Classes: Examples of Experiential Learning Assignments

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

- I. Creation of workshop content
- II. Project for local non-profit organization
- Opportunities to:
 - Work with the media
 - Convert findings into accessible language without watering down the conclusions
 - Collaborate with community-based organizations
 - Create "translation" documents from rigorous research for popular, community and local use
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 - Translate research into practice (educational, organizational, and/or movement based)
 - Public art as a form of re-presenting critical scholarship: museums, parks, photo exhibits, videos to "disseminate" research findings

Experiential Learning: Action Assignment Industrial/Organizational Psychology



Site: Light of the Village

Light of the Village: Once a working crack house, and situated in a neighborhood fraught with crime, gangs, and poverty, Light of the Village school has survived and thrived for 12 years as a beacon of hope for many of Prichard, Ala.'s at-risk youth.

Volunteer Handbook http://www.shc.edu/news/2013/12/16/light-village



"Light of the Village doesn't exist without community volunteers," says Kittler. "When we started assessing needs and talking to staff members, we discovered that they didn't have a formal a volunteer handbook. It was the perfect service project for our team." The handbook serves as a reminder of the nonprofit's goals and mission, as well as outlines Light of the Village's many programs and services. Kittler spearheaded the project along with classmates Chasity Douyon, Twarner Witherspoon, and Melaine Parker.

Site: Little Tree School

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y47TNMnP1U&feature=youtu.be





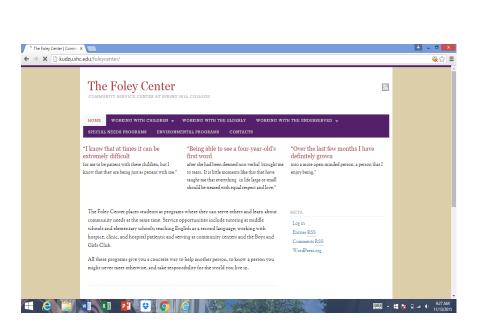
Most recently, Gatson is rounding out his off-campus time by leading a multi-faceted project at The Little Tree preschool in Mobile. The Little Tree provides education for traditional students and those on the autistic spectrum, ages 2 to 4.

Since arriving on campus his freshman year, Gatson has done much more than score points and rebounds for the Badgers basketball team. He's made significant efforts to give back to organizations on campus and in

"My classmates and I are producing a promotional video for the school, as well as revising a staff and volunteer training manual," says Gatson. "The Little Tree has so much to offer and a lot of local families don't know about the programs. The video is something

Service-Learning

Collaborate with campus Field Experience or Service-Learning Center



Service-Learning Objectives

- Self- Enhancement
 - Self-esteem
 - Self-efficacy
- Understanding of Self and World
 - Empathy
 - Perspective-taking
- Value-Expression
 - Prosocial values
 - Social engagement
 - Stukas, Clary, & Snyder, 1999.

Service Learning – Honors General Chemistry Lab Partners in Science

Coordinate with a local public middle school – 8th

grade Physical Science class

Visit 4 times during semester

Hands-on lab activities

Developing communication skills

Exposure to community needs



Student Reflections: Evidence of Achieving Multiple Goals

- "Very rewarding to give back to the community, gave us a new perspective on the poverty and struggle outside of our world."
- "I grew academically as well as personally."
- "The team project was great because we got to work with an organization and help them."
- "We did a good deed!"
- "I enjoyed working as a team and working with the site to use skills I learned and apply them to the site."
- "It showed real-world applications of what we were learning."
- "The team project was very rewarding because it allowed us to give back."

Engaged Scholarship (Boyer, 1966)

 "The term redefines faculty scholarly work from application of academic expertise to community engaged scholarship that involves the faculty member in a reciprocal partnership with the community, is interdisciplinary, and integrates faculty roles of teaching, research, and service" (New England Resource Center for Higher Educations).

Providing Action Opportunities for Students

- Service-Learning Opportunities
 - Partnering with community organizations to
 - Paint murals
 - Coach youth
 - Teach art, drama, and poetry
 - Provide resources and training for science labs
- Volunteering with local non-profits
 - Utilizing transferable skills
 - Creating videos
 - Developing training manuals
 - Creating logos and advertising plans
 - Providing social media training
 - Developing websites
 - Providing staff support
 - Engaging in fundraising and grant-writing
 - Assisting with awareness and advocacy
- Training workshops for local business
 - Training staff
 - "Diversity" training, perspective-taking, communication, and tools for collaborating across difference
 - Using the SPSSI Policy Hub to train staff to write letters to the editor, create research summaries to assist with advocacy work and grant-writing
 - Needs Assessment Surveys
 - Program Evaluation

Register for this <u>free webinar</u> | Thursday, February 14, 2019, 2pm - 3pm EST Presenters

Nader Hakim, University of Kansas

Nader's research uses sociocultural approaches to understanding intergroup relations; his projects have focused on how different social psychological processes--such as identity, collective memory, and group-based emotions--hinder and promote peace and reconciliation.

Natasha Bharj, University of Kansas

Natasha is primarily interested in socio-cultural constructions of gendered and sexual violence, particularly within the context of colonialism and narratives of development. She also conducts research on representations of history and national identity, and is interested in the scholarship of teaching & learning.

Internationalizing the Introductory Psychology Curriculum: Critical Diversity Interventions in the Classroom

Abstract: Given their breadth and relatable content, introductory psychology courses are opportune teaching experiences for graduate students looking to integrate diversity and social justice content. In this webinar, we will discuss our two strategies to internationalize the introductory psychology curriculum; first, the normalization of psychological ways of being beyond WEIRD settings and, second, denaturalizing taken for granted psychological theory. These strategies extend beyond cultural diversity by also promoting critical consciousness about social and economic inequalities in the US. We will share our experiences, pedagogical motivations, and several lesson plan outlines. Our post-semester quantitative evaluations suggested that this approach amplified student comprehension because, rather than integrate diversity and social justice as peripheral addendums, we made such content integral to a full understanding of the material. We will close the webinar by discussing methods of evaluating internationalizing interventions and our experiences applying these strategies in classes across a range of levels and formats.

Register here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2683348628645018369

Through the leadership of SPSSI's Graduate Student Committee, SPSSI has produced more than fifteen webinars. Videos of recorded webinars can be found on SPSSI's YouTube channel. A description of recent webinars with links to materials (when available) can be found on the Graduate Student Committee page of the SPSSI website.





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Note: Portions of this talk have been shared at the National Institutes for the Teaching of Psychology and the SPSSI Convention



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Your feedback is important to us.