



CETL TIPS: Relaxation and Rejuvenation Over the Summer Months

Summer is a time to reflect and rejuvenate. As you transition from a schedule defined by class meetings, labs, and committee involvement, you may become curious about the latest publications on interactive teaching and approaches to redesigning the classroom setting. The following list provides a few reading recommendations that can fit easily into your carry on luggage or picnic basket as you head out to enjoy the outdoor weather.

Summer Reading Resources for Reflecting on Teaching

***Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses* by L. Dee Fink**

This book provides several conceptual and procedural tools for creatively designing courses that inspire student learning. It begins with the question - what kinds of learning will be significant for students and how can instructors create courses that corresponds to that type of learning? Focusing on how instructors can creatively adapt courses to illicit a significant learning experience for students, the underlying argument posed by this author is a move from content centered approaches to teaching to a learning centered approach.

***The Achievement Gap in U.S. Education: Canaries in the Mine* by Mano Singham**

In this book, Mano Singham takes a look at the problem of the Black/White achievement gap in the context of larger political realities and argues that in order to understand it we must determine what is happening within the educational system as a whole.

***Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom* by John Bean (available in the CETL library)**

John Bean's book is a useful guide for teachers from any discipline that are interested in integrating writing activities into the classroom. The author introduces theories of learning and writing followed by concrete examples that show teachers how to encourage inquiry, exploration, discussion, and debate in their courses.

***Introduction to Rubrics: An Assessment Tool to Save Grading Time, Convey Effective Feedback and Promote Student Learning* by Dannelle Stevens and Antinia Levi (available in the CETL library)**

This book provides a practical guide for creating and utilizing grading rubrics in the classroom setting. Throughout this text, Stevens and Levi offer examples and a step-by-step approach to designing a rubric that corresponds to your personal classroom needs.

***Collaborative Learning Techniques: A Handbook for College Faculty* by Elizabeth Barkley, K. Patricia Cross, Claire Howell Major (available in the CETL library)**

Engaging students and promoting active learning, teachers across disciplines are incorporating collaborative learning into their teaching as a means for improving student learning experiences. This book provides instructors with detailed procedures for thirty collaborative learning techniques and offers practical suggestions on a wide variety of topics, including how to form groups in the classroom setting, assign roles, build team cohesion, conduct problem solving, and evaluate and grade student participation.

***Writing to Learn: Strategies for Assigning and Responding to Writing Across the Disciplines: New Directions for Teaching and Learning* Edited by Mary Deane Sorcinelli and Peter Elbow**

This book is ideal for instructors who utilize writing as a key tool for learning in their classroom. It offers practical insight on how to provide students with effective feedback on their written work.

***My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student* by Rebekah Nathan (available in CETL library)**

This book offers a light reading introduction into what the life of a student is like. This eye opener covers topics from friendship, social life, engagement in the classroom and dorm life to experiences of racial and ethnic minorities and international students. Likely to change to the way you think about teaching!

On-Line Summer Resources for Recharging, Redesigning, and Reflecting on Teaching Techniques

[Reading List & Web Resources Preparing Future Faculty \(http://www.apsanet.org/section_387.cfm\)](http://www.apsanet.org/section_387.cfm).

[Chronicle of Higher Education \(http://www.chronicle.com\)](http://www.chronicle.com)

[Teaching Strategies \(http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/teachings.php\)](http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/teachings.php)

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