

Why Is She Making Us Do All the Work?

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Who's Asking?

- Undergraduate & graduate secondary education majors
 - 20+ disciplines
- Required course
 - Teaching Exceptional Adolescents
- 30-35 students per section
 - Multiple sections, year-round

4 “Big Idea” Questions

1. Who are adolescents with exceptional learning needs?
2. Which instructional principles and practices should teachers employ in academically diverse classrooms?
3. How can classroom and school communities be shaped to support the success of adolescents with exceptional learning needs?
4. How do historical, legal and values frameworks influence educational decisions regarding delivery of services and supports to exceptional adolescents?

7 Cases – Lots More Questions

- Introduction to a case
 - Group brainstorming of inquiry questions
 - Individual research & online posting
- Instructor presentation of key concepts
 - Whole class discussions
- Structured group synthesis of individual research
 - In-class exercises
 - Preparation for presentation
- Presentations

“Multiple Forms of Expression”

- Online posts, research- based (4-6)
- Individual Summary Papers (4)
- Group Presentations
 - Unit 1: Lecture
 - Unit 2: Demonstration
 - Unit 3: Poster
 - Unit 4: Role Play Scenarios
- Graduate Challenge Papers (3)
 - “Practice” or “Critique” Option
- Final Exam

What worked?

- Revealing information progressively
- Rotating realistic student case studies
- Balancing lecture with self-directed research
- Establishing interdisciplinary groups
- Providing multiple opportunities to teach peers in varied formats
- Shifting dispositions toward ownership and problem-solving

What needs work?

- Realign and revise some assessments
 - Better balance between individual and group accountability
 - More individual accountability for critical concept knowledge
 - Modify format or eliminate final exam
 - Pre-assessment? Brief unit exams?
 - Reduce grading load related to summary papers
 - Eliminate papers; expand “posts”
- More emphasis on credible resources and evidence base for techniques
- Revise course structure for delivery in winter or summer compressed format