Service-Learning and Problem-Based Learning in College Writing

English 110 Lunch Session – November 9, 2005

* All documents associated with this lunch session are posted on the English 110 Resources Blackboard site. *

Workshop Objectives
- To explore service-learning and problem-based learning as engaged learning activities
- To investigate approaches to including service-learning in College Writing
- To discuss strategies for implementing service-learning projects
- To examine approaches to including problem-based learning in College Writing
- To evaluate service-learning and problem-based learning as rhetorical acts
- To share resources for service-learning and problem-based learning activities

1. Service-Learning in College Writing

- “Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities” (National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, 2004).

- Service and learning goals have equal weight in course projects.

- Course work integrates reflection on the service-learning experience.

- Service-learning projects often allow students to explore how writing conventions vary for different audiences and purposes. (2005-2006 Instructional Goal)

- Service-learning at Elon is supported by the Kernodle Center: http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/servicelearning/

- Several English 110 faculty have incorporated service-learning in College Writing, since service-learning often allows students to participate in a multi-part writing project for a non-academic audience, while exploring writing’s capacity to change oneself and the world.

- Online resources include the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse at: http://www.servicelearning.org/index.php

- If you decide to integrate service-learning, consider completing a service-learning course designation form so that students are aware that your course includes a service-learning component.
2. Problem-Based Learning in College Writing

- Problem-Based Learning requires students to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to investigate personally relevant/socially situated problems.

- “Problem-based learning was pioneered by McMaster University Medical School in Hamilton, Ontario, about 30 years ago. From the beginning it seemed a spectacular success story in the use of case study teaching. Real patient problems became the entire basis for the curriculum. Inspired by this success, a couple dozen other medical schools in the United States and abroad also revamped their curricula around patient cases” (Herreid, 2003, p. 364).

- In Problem-Based Learning, students work in groups to organize their prior knowledge and research related to the current problem.

- Problem-Based Learning can result in persuasive writing tasks, in which students argue for their proposed solution. (2005-2006 Instructional Goal)
Bibliography


**Next English 110 Lunch Workshop: February 8th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Ward Octagon**