Mentoring the Mentors

A Pilot Project in Information Literacy

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What

Develop a Writing and Information Literacy mentoring program in order to create an easily identifiable mechanism for students in selected courses to get peer tutoring from a student mentor who can address the interwoven tasks of writing and information literacy.

What's Already in Place

Writing Center Tutor Training

Three credit course in their first semester that emphasizes peer-tutoring skills.

Ongoing Development of Tutors & Mentors

Weekly meeting for all tutors to address issues of interest including information literacy.

Writing Mentors

Robust writing mentor program in place. Experienced tutors matched with classes taught by faculty committed to improving teaching of writing.

Faculty Development

Writing in the Disciplines Summer Institute aids faculty in designing courses that address writing and information literacy.

Anticipated Benefits of WIL Mentor Program

Students

Enhanced peer support for information literacy and writing as connected practices.

Mentors

Involvement in high-impact practice that is enhanced by addition of information literacy.

Opportunity to work closely with a librarian.

Faculty

Further integration of information literacy.

Deepen knowledge of librarian and mentor (students) perspectives on information literacy.

Librarians

Opportunity to mentor undergraduate peer-mentors.

Work on course development with a faculty member committed to information literacy.

Targeting TAP Seminars

- Small first-year seminars in disciplines
- College of Arts & Sciences
- Enrollment capped at 19
- Meet Foundational Writing and Information Literacy Requirement
- Highly successful in retention efforts

Course: POLS 095: Politics of Criminal Justice

Tutor: Geography / Political Science

Librarian: Scott Schaffer, Political Science Liaison

Take Aways

- Personal relationship with faculty and mentor
- Abilities and skills of mentor
- Mentor not necessarily familiar with all research sources
- Delineate which info lit questions could be addressed by mentor, which to refer to librarian
- Once the class started...
- Rewarding and satisfying

Course: WLIT 095: The European Fairy Tale

Tutor: English/History/Art History

Librarian: Daisy Benson, Romance Languages Liaison

Take Aways

- Develop ongoing relationship with mentor
- Deepened trust and respect for work of mentors
- Time well spent - developing mentor skills that she can use with students
- Co-teaching with mentor is fun!

Assessment

Surveys of students, mentors, and faculty.

Reflection by mentors and librarians.

Workload/time analysis of librarian and mentor commitment.

Questions?

Image Credits

Writing Center: http://www.uvm.edu/wid/writingcenter/

Journal Writer: https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2018/05/02/10/33/address-3368238_960_720.jpg (Pixabay)

Clock: https://libreshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/wall-clock-861x574.jpg

Laptop Guy: https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/images/news/jarodboone_action-web.jpg (NASA/JPL)