Blending, Mixing, and Processing: Strategies Used to Engage Students in the Classroom

LOEX 2012

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Presentation Outline

- Our Institutions
- Obstacles
- Your teaching strategies
- Blending
- Don't Sit Still...
- Technology and Realia
- Mixing
- Processing
- Conclusion

Our Institutions

- Authors are employed at the College of Staten Island and John Jay College, two senior colleges of the City University of New York (CUNY).
- Both institutions provide one-shot bibliographic instruction sessions to targeted classes.
- Mark Aaron Polger also teaches a for-credit information literacy course at ASA College in New York.

Obstacles

- Students may not feel engaged
- Academic librarians may have trouble getting "buy in" from academic departments and teaching faculty.
- Students may forget everything afterwards.
- No "relationship building" between student and librarian.
- Students may be overwhelmed by too much information.
- Different user interfaces may not be user-friendly.
- Librarians providing instruction for large Undergraduate classes (in an auditorium/theater) is a challenge.

Please write down some of the teaching strategies you use to engage students.

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_____

Blending: Integrate different strategies to start the class

- Icebreakers and storytelling
- Visuals and colorful handouts
- Scaffolded learning
- Theatrics
- Experiential Learning
- Bring realia

Mixing Multimedia and Other Methods

- Move around the classroom
- Engage students and ask questions
- Kinesthetic learning
- Technology and Realia
  - YouTube Videos as learning tools.
  - Facebook Profiles can help teach Database Citations
  - Flickr tags can help teach Subjects
  - LibGuides as One-Stop Portal
- Newspaper articles of current events

Processing Using Critical Thinking Exercises
- Critical Self-Reflection Exercises
- "Hands-On" Group Work
- Mnemonics

Conclusion

- Assessment
- Follow-up
- Market and promote your library and all librarians