Team Based Learning for Family Studies Courses

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TBL

- Larry Michaelsen started TBL in the late 1970s at the University of Oklahoma business school

- Medical Education adopted this in the late 1990s at Baylor School of Medicine

- There is now an annual TBL conference held every year
What is TBL?

- “Large group, peer teaching strategy”  
  (McMahon, 2010, p. 55)
- Intentional, permanent teams of 5-7 people
- Effective with small, medium, and large classrooms
Why use TBL?

- 4.9/5.0 Course Ratings

- > 90% attendance rates (Mid-Sized lecture)

- Improved grades over standard lecture + midterm & final structure

- Enhances Long-Term Retention and Critical Thinking
Why Else?

- Increased Student Interaction & Creativity

- Application Activities – Problem Solving
  < 21st Century Learning & Employment

- Different Roles: Writer, Speaker, Researcher, Task Manager
Role Play

- Imagine, you’re all undergraduate students about to take a Child Development & Family Studies Introductory course “Personal & Family Living”
Practice

- Strategic Random assignment: Number off
- Get into teams w/ those who have the same #
- Assign roles
  < Writer
  < Speaker
  < Researcher
  < Task Manager
Team Building Activities

- First week should be centered around team building and course introductions

- Emphasize participation and teamwork
  - Employers are looking for this along with application

- Ideas:
  - Practice Tests
  - Practice Application Activities
  - Fun Problem-Solving Activities
Weeks 2-15

- Same Teams
- Must come prepared (readings prior to class)
- Start Class w/ I-RATS (Timed)
- Transition to T-RATS (Timed) – Less time needed
- Review and Grading (Appeals too)
- Brief Lecture
Weeks 2-15

- Next Class
- Come prepared (readings)
- Short Lecture
- End with Application Activity

- Must have some form of team evaluating
  < Each week, midterm & final, your choice
Finals Week

- Optional: Team Final (midterm too if you wish)
Things to Consider

- **Team Conflict**
  - If possible, handle this in-house
  - If this fails, speak w/ your instructor (team meeting)
  - Option to separate from team (go solo – not good)
  - Option to divorce a teammate (they go solo – not good)

- **Put a few difficult (multiple correct answer) questions in your tests (promotes discussion)**
Resources

- http://www.teambasedlearning.org/
- http://www.utexas.edu/academic/ctl/largeclasses/#tbl
- http://www.epsteineducation.com/home/
References


