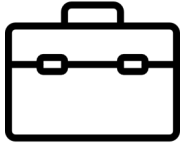


Building Midterms IKEA Style: Transforming Learning via DIY Assignments

Reframing Exams



Dr. Evert's introductory marketing class allowed students to determine the content of their own midterm test. First, students chose the specific focus of the test questions (by relating their test responses to how marketing works in their various fields of study).

Restructuring Questions



Second, students picked which three of the nine listed test questions they wanted to answer.

Refitting Grades



Finally, students who wished to improve their grade on the midterm were then encouraged to revise with instructor input and resubmit by the end of the term .

Reforming Learning Outcomes



Allowing students the opportunity to revise pushed students into a “growth mindset” versus a “fixed mindset,” and prompted them to strive for self-improvement throughout the semester.

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Doing Your Own “Do-it-Yourself”

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Video Term Paper



Research doesn't have to be static! Consider asking students to explore a topic of their choosing using video clips, images, and audio recordings in a short, ~5-minute presentation. The Internet Archive and Pixabay are two great resources for royalty-free and creative commons content.

Un-research Research Paper



Sometimes to teach a concept, you have to explore its opposite. In this paper, encourage students to write the first draft based entirely on their own pre-existing knowledge. Then, in draft two, have them find supporting sources. This approach helps solidify why viable research matters when communicating content to a reader.

Current Affairs and Content



Apply your course content to the larger world. Students appreciate information most when they can relate its significance to their own experiences. Use yesterday's headlines as a framework for today's lectures and see understanding and engagement flourish!

Community Cooperation



Real-world application comes easiest with the involvement of others outside of the classroom. Consider working with other departments on your campus or businesses/organizations in your larger community to create projects and assignments with a purpose that goes beyond learning outcomes and grades.