

PIDP 3340

Collaborative Learning in the College Classroom



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Presentation Reflection

Introduction

As I reflect on my process of becoming an instructor, I've realized there's a wealth of knowledge and technique I can draw from to make any teaching I do more engaging and effective. One particular area of interest for me is understanding high-performance teams, as this is something I believe is crucial in both academic and professional settings. In this reflection, I will discuss what I learned about high-performance teams, while making the above presentation, how I plan to incorporate what I learned into any teaching I do, and what this presentation taught me about making presentations.

High-Performance Teams

I learned a great deal making this presentation and in this course about the importance of high-performance teams, in terms of effectiveness, and the characteristics of team formation that inhibit voluntary effective team formation.

In particular, the phrases 'forming', 'storming', 'norming', and 'performing' were helpful in clarifying my own observations on barriers to team formation, like the natural characteristics of students that cause them to form into homogeneous groups and to 'storm' against one another when put into non-homogeneous groups.

The natural tendency of students to avoid group formation can be overcome through curriculum development and instructor class management. This course was helpful in formulating ideas and activity structures that can inspire team formation among students.

In future presentations related to teams, and in engagements with teams, I plan to emphasize barriers to team formation and suggest some behaviours individuals seeking greater involvement in teams, and involvement in team formations, can emulate.

Changing Practices

Because of this research, I intend also to spread what information I can about the benefits of team formation, and counsel individuals wisely, when the opportunity presents itself, to behave in ways that are more conducive to higher performance team formation. This may involve conversations on effective team dynamics or newsletters that include case studies that illustrate the benefits of well-functioning teams.

Enhancing Presentation Techniques

I also aim to enhance my presentation techniques to make my presentations more engaging and informative. For instance, I've noticed my declarative statements sometimes come across as factual rather than hypothesis-driven, and I want to work on phrasing them less emphatically. Furthermore, I want to improve the tone and pacing of my presentations to make them more entertaining and accessible.

Most Informative Resource

One resource that stood out was Michael Broom's presentation. His insightful commentary on team formation provided strong observational evidence of how certain behaviours can impede effective team dynamics. His genuine desire to inspire team formation among students was clear and motivating. I plan to draw on his insights and techniques in my own future engagements with students and teams.

Presentation Experience

What I Was Proud Of: I enjoyed formulating the 'Assignment Configuration' technique into something imaginatively implementable. The terminology is catchy enough to be memorable for any instructors who come across it. I'd like to see 'Assignment Configurations' featured in a text with a compilation of various techniques for inspiring students to work effectively in teams.

What I Would Do Differently: If I could do it again, I'd improve my English language usage by making more declarative statements that align with hypothesis statements. Additionally, I'd work on varying my tone and presentation style to keep listeners more entertained.

Technical Lessons Learned: It's probably wise to ensure any automated software updates are done ahead of live recordings to avoid interruptions due to system updates. My new Zoom installation had some bugs in it, which affected the recording of my initial live presentation.

Conclusion

As I continue to develop as an instructor, I am continually reminded of the importance of reflection and improvement. My exploration of high-performance teams and their characteristics has not only impacted my teaching style but also my approach to communication and presentation techniques. I'm committed to spreading this key knowledge and ensuring any future engagements with students and teams are productive, informative, and engaging.

AI Models Used in Report

The ideas, structure, writing, and editing in this paper were performed by the author. Various AI models were used in collecting data, verifying data, and formatting various arguments.

- Llama 3.1 405B Instruct
- Meta Llama 4 Scout
- Mixtral
- Qwen 2.5 235b a22b
- Qwen 14B