

CEP822

Research Review Project: Focus, Rationale, Sources

Instructions. For each part of the Research Review Project, complete the appropriate section of this Word document. Write in the boxes. When complete, upload to the appropriate D2L Dropbox.

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Focus & Rationale (at least 200 words)

1. What is the issue you wish to learn more about?

How to use more collaborative learning/problem solving in my classroom and how to implement the flipped classroom to accomplish this aim.

2. Describe why this issue is of personal and professional importance to you.

For a few years I have wanted to take the content that I teach and make it much more meaningful for my students. I am often asked why learning about history is important. I think part of the problem is that often the content is not given enough "real-world" application. Meaning, if I teach the students about the Constitution but do not give them the opportunity to take that information and make connections to their own civic responsibilities, then the purpose of learning about the Constitution is lost.

However, it increasingly seems that there is not enough time in my short, 45 minute class to have the students work with one another to take the content and work to apply it to their lives and make meaningful connections. I have taught relatively traditionally: teaching the lesson and then having the students review that information and make connections at home for homework. When I do have the students go deeper in class to really look at the content, it is always at the expense of instruction time for the content. Invariably I am forced to make a difficult decision between making my content more meaningful or getting through what I am expected to get through by the end of the year.

As a result, I have wanted to explore the flipped classroom coupled with collaborative learning to solve this problem. With the students learning the content at home, that will free up classroom time to work collaboratively to solve problems that relates to the content. For example, the students could learn about Benjamin Franklin as an inventor in a lesson at home. The next day the students could be tasked to work in groups to make an invention using a circuit board and certain other items that would be made available to them. They would still be getting the needed content, but could then take that information and use it to

make applications and take it to the next level by becoming inventors themselves.

Last year, I implemented this to a very small degree and though there were some practical snags (difficulty accessing needed technology at home, etc.) I always felt it was meaningful as long as students were doing the needed lessons at home. Due to a middle of the year maternity leave, I fell far short of my goals. Furthermore, I need to do more research to understand how to implement this more effectively to reach my goals. Thus, my interest in studying this further relates to applying it my classroom as soon as possible, if it would be ideal for my classroom based on the research.

Sources

In the table provided, list the names of at least 5 high quality sources (publication, journals, etc.) you will be searching through to find research related to your topic. For each source, give the title and describe why you feel this is a high quality source. Keep in mind, you should be focused on finding research articles - pieces that report a research study.

At least 3 of these sources should be professional journals in your field

*IMPORTANT. You are to list only the names of the journals, not the articles, you're thinking about using. Finding particular articles will take lots of time and you'll work on that task for the next part of this project.

Name of journal, book, website, etc.	Is this a professional journal in your field? (yes/no)	Reasons you feel this is a high quality source for research on your topic
American Educational Research Journal	Yes	I have seen the name of the journal many times throughout my years studying both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. There was a particular article about failings of current educational practices that intrigued me from 2009. When I checked this journal for its impact factor, I found it had a factor of 2.9 and total citations around 3,600. It has been in publication since 1997. Further search told me it was one of the most highly regarded journals in the education field. I am still looking for other applicable articles from this journal.
Journal of Teacher Education	Yes	There were many studies published in this publication that interested me and I have heard of this journal before and researched from it as well. When I looked it up it had an impact factor of 2.75 and total citations

		around 1,600 and growing steadily. I also, out of curiosity, ran a Google search on it as well and was surprised to find it was one of the most popular education journals, which I did not know before. I was actually surprised, based on that, that the impact factor was not higher. However, your introduction to week 2 video did state that impact factors in the area of education general range from 1 to 4, so this does appear to be on the higher end.
Chemistry Education Research and Practice	Yes/No (Not chemistry, specifically)	This journal had a research study that I found very interesting. The journal itself stated its impact factor at 2.091 but when I searched it on Web of Science, it listed it at 1.82. The total citations number was low compared to other journals at just 784. However, it has only been in publication since 2009 and has grown steadily. Even though I do not teach chemistry, the study covered my area of interest well. I am keeping this in consideration.
Journal of Educational Technology & Society	Yes	This journal has total citations around 1,400 and an impact factor of 1.14. It is certainly not the highest possible, but it is also not bad and showing steady increase since it first started in 2005.
Educational Technology Research and Development	Yes	This journal has been in publication since 1998. It has steadily increased the number of citations throughout its publication. Now the total citations are in the 1,500 range and the impact factor is 1.07. The articles that I have viewed so far show relevant research studies following the appropriate format. They appear to be well documented and researched.
Journal of the Learning Sciences	Yes	When looked up on Web of Science, this journal had an impact factor of 3.13 and had total citations of around 1,600. It first started in 1997. This particular journal had a very study regarding how to implement collaborative problem solving and the distance created by computer use. I also found other studies (about coordination of collaborative groups) that I found very helpful.
Teaching and Learning Research Initiative – New Zealand Council for	No	This was not published in a journal, but appears to be a study done through the initiative of the New Zealand government through its Council for Educational

Educational Research		Research. The study was an interesting look at collaborative problem solving and clearly stated method and data.
Journal of Technology Studies	??	I found 4 articles specifically related to my area of interest from this publication. However, it could not be found on the Web of Science search. I ran a Google search of it and it came up with a full website and publications dating back to the '90s. If this is a journal that has been in publication for this long, why would it not appear on Web of Science? Furthermore, the studies I found were peer reviewed. These were all accessed through JSTOR. I am not sure if I should even consider them.