



professional development quickenotes

Pedagogy @ Starlink Professional Development Network

During October we will be offering three different teleconferences from Starlink that address pedagogical issues. Multiple sessions will be held of each of the training videos in this series. All sessions will be held in the TLC Conference Room (C230D).

“New Standards for New Students?”

The first teleconference is **“New Standards for the New Student?”** by Terry Manning, Ph.D., and Wanda-Lee Smith, M.A. This session looks at the influx of the “Millennial” generation into colleges and the unique learning and communications skills and challenges they present. Born between 1982 and 2002, the Millennials represent a group nearly as large as the Boomer generation. Born of both Boomer and Gen X parents, Millennials are the most racially and ethnically diverse generation to enter higher education. They represent the first generation born to parents in which the mother was better educated than the father.

The presenters claim that despite their diversity the Millennials share many common traits. First of all, they are “master” negotiators, wanting to negotiate—some would say argue—with anyone, including teachers. They have grown up working and playing almost always in groups, e.g., soccer, play groups, educational programs. They have been plugged in since they were born, and have never known a world without computers. Being connected—by cell phone, messaging, etc.—is essential for them. Two-way communication twenty-four hours a day seven days a week is key to them. Furthermore, they want to learn:

- 🌀 With technology
- 🌀 With each other
- 🌀 In their time
- 🌀 In their place
- 🌀 Doing things that matter

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“All learning is active, not passive. It involves the use of the mind, not just the memory”

Mortimer Adler



An early teleconference by Douglas Engelbart @ a 1968 computer conference

Edited by
Rick W. Burkett
Professional Development Facilitator

John A. Logan College
LRC Teaching and Learning Center

C230G
618-985-2828, ext. 8135
rickburkett@jalc.edu



"Making Lectures More Meaningful: Integrating Active Learning Techniques"

The second teleconference is entitled: ***"Making Lectures More Meaningful: Integrating Active Learning Techniques"*** by Jim Eison. Eison is a psychologist who has focused his career on teaching and learning in higher education. He is a faculty member in the University of South Florida's Doctoral Program in Higher Education. His courses include "Seminar in College Teaching," "Cognitive Issues in Instruction," and "Powerful Pedagogies in College Teaching". He is a co-author of *Active Learning: Creating Excitement in the Classroom*.

The promotion description of this session states: "Lectures are a very efficient way to present information. It has been proven however, that students learn best by doing. By incorporating active learning elements into the lecture, teachers can increase students' learning potential, motivation, and achievement. This program will discuss and demonstrate several ways that instructors can engage students in making explicit connections." The topics to be addressed include:

- ☞ Why is active learning important?
- ☞ Low-risk high-impact active learning instructional strategies
- ☞ Simple ways to engage learners from the very start of class sessions
- ☞ Classroom demonstrations of active learning instructional methods & activities that enhance classroom presentations

"Teaching Critical Thinking Skills Across the Curriculum"

The third Teleconference is entitled: ***"Teaching Critical Thinking Skills Across the Curriculum"*** by Diane F. Halpern, Ph.D. Halpern served as the 2004 President of the American Psychological Association. She is currently the director of the Berger Institute for Work, Family, and Children and Professor of Psychology at Claremont McKenna College in Los Angeles, California. She has been awarded the Outstanding Teaching award from the Western Psychological Association (2002) and the Distinguished Career Award for Contributions to Education (awarded by the American Psychological Association). Her most recent book is *Thought and Knowledge: An Introduction to Critical Thinking*, 4th ed.

The session is moderated by Bob Ray Sanders, currently a columnist for the Fort Worth *Star Telegram*. Sanders spent two decades in public broadcasting, including serving as vice president of KERA-TV, Channel 13 in Dallas-Fort Worth. He also hosted the station's award-winning public affairs program, "News Addition." He is currently a distinguished lecturer at Texas Woman's University and is a past president of the Press Club of Fort Worth.

