Bridging the Gap: Solving the Problem of Bringing Experiential Learning Activities to Online Capstone Courses
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Experiential Learning

What do you typically think of when you consider experiential learning?
Creative work
Travel
How do you provide experiential learning opportunities to students in an online program?
Challenges of and for online students

Working
Parenting
Location is an issue
Experiential Learning

How does it work?

What’s the goal?
“Learning is the process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience” (Kolb, 1984, p.38).
Online Experiential Learning Can Be Done, the Gap Can Be Bridged

How?
Reorganize the wheel of experiential learning
Reflective observation

Learners provide
Transcripts
Five examples of their favorite past works
Learners self-reflect via a journal entry on their past academic activities
What were the most positive/meaningful?
What were the most negative?
Learners self-reflect via a discussion board on their personal interests and vocational experiences.
Concrete Experience

The instructor generates the experience

• Be creative
• Take inspiration from anywhere
• Assign roles to the learners

This should be fun!
Example
The Case of the Prison Patients
Reflective Observation Phase Provided The Following:

Student A – experience in the military and emergency management
Student B – studied public relations
Student C – favorite past course work focused on ethics
Student D – wrote policy
Concrete Experience: Prison Clinic Closes

The Miami County Prison Clinic closes its doors. Howard Hospital is a not-for-profit meaning providers are required to treat any patient who walks through its doors. The prison ships its patients to Howard for treatment. The general population patients are concerned. The providers and staff are upset. How are we going to mitigate this?
Active Experimentation

- Student A given the role of developing security protocols and informed
- Student B developed public relations plan to calm the fears of the community
- Student C explored the ethical treatment of prisoners
- Student D wrote the formal policy on how the situation was best handled
The learner shares what he or she has done for the project in his or her specific role with classmates in online presentation.
Reflect: Let’s build a project

What is your field of study or an interest you have?
Type it into Zoom

Anything in the news lately that has interested you? Be sure to keep it somewhat narrow. Just COVID-19 is too broad.
Type it into Zoom
Q &A

What experiential learning activity do you think we can develop?
References


• Images from Pixabay.com