

### Welcome to UniSA College Professional Development 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020



Building a Community of Practice:

UniSA College Tutor Training



# **Building a Community of Practice**

8:50 – 9:00: Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country, Associate Professor Sharron King, Head of School

9:00– 10:00: Conversations around best practice approaches for working alongside Aboriginal students (Deanne Hanchant-Nichols, People, Talent & Culture)

#### 10:00-10:30 Morning Tea

10:30 – 11:15: Supporting refugee students (Dr Snjezana Bilic & Teresa Thai)

11:15 – 12:00: Connecting enabling pedagogy to your teaching through action research (Dr Sarah Hattam & Tanya Weiler)

12-1:00 All Staff Lunch – Honki Tonki, Vietnamese





# Connecting enabling pedagogy to your practice through action research

Dr Sarah Hattam (UniSA College)

## UniSA College Teaching and Learning Resource Site





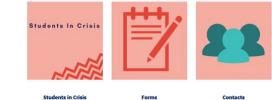
College History

College Culture

re Enabling Pedagogy

Professional Development

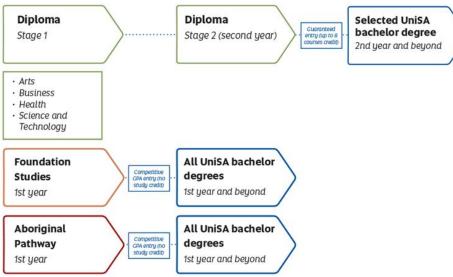
















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- #1473 students
- #1724 UO students
- #1223 OUA students
- 70% Equity
- 54% Low SES
- 9% ATSI
- 21% Regional Remote
- 96% of College students went on to study UniSA

degrees.

"Before coming to the College, language was a big barrier, but there were a lot of students in a similar position (I really liked the diversity of the College). Since then, my communication and confidence has really improved." Anifay

"...the staff at the College really pushed me to do better and believe in myself." Kayla

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### **Action Research Projects**



'In the first year, the project gave many of us the much-needed time and space to address individual teaching challenges while offering the framework of working to timelines to produce measured outcomes. We supported each other, offered counsel, and reported in on progress along the way. Across the board, the results have been of great benefit to both the academic team and, most importantly, our students'. CC 1

#### Identify a teaching challenge.....

**Re-design** or adapt approaches with connections to elements of enabling pedagogy and **assess if this has improved student experience or outcomes**.

**Collaborate with colleagues** in the process along the way to learn from each other.







- Some/many students in my class are not being successful.
- There are issues with students not being engaged in productive learning
- How can I maintain positive relationships <u>and</u> ask my students to complete challenging learning tasks
- How do I improve learning for Aboriginal, Refugee, Low-SES students
- How do I teach productively a culturally diverse class

## **Enabling Pedagogies**

Enabling pedagogy draws upon the history of progressive pedagogies and maintains a focus on social justice and empowering students (Stokes 2014; Bennett et al 2016).



Negotiated curriculum Hot or warm knowledges (Bourdieu 1977; Ball and Vincent 1998)



Culturally responsive Challenging tasks (Smyth and Hattam; Hattam & Lester)



Inclusive approaches Commitment to praxis (Hockings; Burke et al)



Transition pedagogy (Kift, Nelson & Clarke, 2010)



- Student life worlds -> pop culture/community (Moll, Amanti, Neff & Gonzales, 1992)
- Ethos of care, care-full pedagogies (Ahmed, 2004; Motta & Bennett, 2018)

Sense of hope Holistic view of success Democratic participant Social justice commitment Transformative (Freire 2004; Shor 1992; Freire & Shor 1987) We adopt Burke, Crozier & Misiaszek's approach to praxis that 'teaching is not only a professional practice but that **teaching practice should be formed in dialogue** with critical theories if it is to be fine-tuned to complex and intricate relations of power, difference and inequalities' (2017, p. 41).



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### What is your research question?

Try framing up an inquiry question that has one overall question and then a more specific one related to one aspect of your pedagogy.

The overall question should be a rewording of your pedagogical challenge. The specific question provides a focus on some aspect of your teaching that relates directly to your broad question.

### Focusing on some aspect of your practice

- How you negotiate with your students
- How you provide ongoing direction to the class
- How you support small group work
- How you scaffold student success
- How you provide explicit instruction at key times in the unit
- How you manage assessment and feedback on learning
- Others ?



### Example:

How does enacting elements of enabling pedagogy increase student engagement in learning in my critical thinking class? Specifically, how does my teaching of small group work contribute to student engagement?

#### TABLE 14.1 Tips on approach to students

Help students discover	Respect, reassure and	Take students as they	Make relaxed and
themselves and see into the	encourage students	are	happy students
'life of things'			
Help students see study	Provide opportunities for	Teach students how	Train students in
takes time and effort	growth and development	to learn	educational
			capital
Connect with students	Work with students	Help students see	Show students
		the value in want	what is possible
		we do	
Place students in a	Guide and mentor	Never override	Entertain
quasi-teaching situation	students rather than	student	students, but not
where they teach others	instruct or control them	contribution	with jokes
Try not to offend	Help students get past	Look after your	Teach students a
students (but you can	that inner voice that tells	students and show $% \left( {{{\left( {{{{{{{\rm{s}}}}}} \right)}}} \right)$	love of learning
send politicians up)	them they can't do it	an interest in them	as well as skills
Make students	Provide space for student	tTeach students to	Recognise that
comfortable but not too	voices, and listening to	think about their	one size does not
much!	them	thinking	fit all!



#### TABLE 14.2 Tips for classroom practice

Classes to be fun but	Teach problem solving	Provide strategies, like	Take time to teach basic
preparation for hard	and to be reflective	colour coding or baking	skills
work		analogies	
Use humour as a	Teach skills that are	Mix up your teaching	Encourage discussions,
learning device	transferrable	delivery	student views are
			important
Have clear and	Open knowledge up	Provide non-	Teach values and
specific goals and	but funnel down as	threatening but	critique of them
aims	well	challenging tasks	

Avoid academic language	The old-fashioned	Teachers as tool and	Work from the
	chalk and talk still	facilitators of learning	known to the
	works		unknown
Introduce new ideas and	Create independent	Use contemporary	Scaffold
more sophisticated	learners	models to engage eg.	knowledge and
vocabulary gradually		Song lyrics rather than	tasks
		poetry	
Introduce a variety of ways	Reconcile	Provide practical	Have a
of understanding material	traditional and	examples and	thorough
and check they do	progressive	translatethem to theory	knowledge of
understand it	education		your discipline
Show passion and	Facilitate learning	Teach from the bottom	Make things
enthusiasm for your topic	with different	up	simpler
	experiences &		
	opportunities		

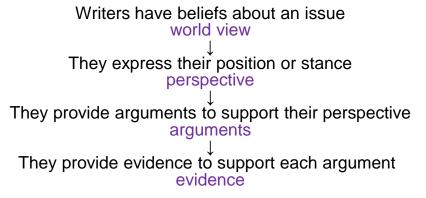


## **Case Study: Sarah Hattam**

My teaching challenge?

How I teach competing political world-views in the course 'Critical Thinking: Media and Academia', as reflected in the stance of the author presented in media texts?







## **Case Study: Sarah Hattam**

### My research question?

How does utilising elements of enabling pedagogy - specifically connecting to student lifeworlds, scaffolding, setting challenging tasks and transformation- increase students engagement with and understanding of 'politics' and provide the students with greater understanding of the way that language is utilised to promote a world view (such as progressive/conservative) in the media?

### My hopeful idea?

The empowerment of the students in their future engagement with texts as they develop awareness of dominant forces in society and helps students to recognise, critique and create change and to give power over the meaning-making process.

# Students could move past discomfort, disconnection and political apathy and engage with political categories and themes in the course to develop an insight to how people and issues are positioned by these categories.

'There are those willing to walk down the path of critical thinking with me, who find their world-views shattered, but simultaneously engage in creatively rebuilding a sense of meaning and coherence in the face of ambiguity' (Boler 2004, p. 117).



### **Learning outcomes**

What did I learn about my practice?

**Referring to popular culture** examples to discuss competing discourses or ideologies about identities assisted understanding of complex concepts. *I enjoyed her making references to pop culture (My Course Experience 2018 SP5).* 

Using an example that **connected with their lifeworlds** ('graduate outcomes') to assess ideological positions in the media on an issue also contributed to greater confidence in applying a difficult concept. *It was a difficult to start thinking more and challenge ideas, opposed to studying and relying on what has been read. However, the skills gained from this course not only assist at university and academic level, but also can be of benefit in our own personal lives (My Course Experience 2018 SP5).* 









New data reveals which universities have the worst employment outcomes

GOING to university does not necessarily guarantee you a job, and some of Australia's best universities have the worst employment outcomes for graduates.



Olivia Lambert 🛛 💆 @LivLambert



# Learning outcomes What did I learn about my practice?

Setting 'challenging tasks' earlier on as part of the curriculum produced greater confidence with the assessment and higher grades overall for the assessment. This involved asking them to identify a topic they are passionate about (domestic violence, mental health, climate change) and highlighting the political implications (funding, policy and legislation).

Scaffolding discussion of concepts across a number of weeks in lectures and tutorials opened up conversation that revealed interest in political categories that could be more thoroughly explored and they felt more empowered to determine whether to believe something as a 'truth'.

'Before starting this course, I had very little understanding of politics, despite many people attempting to explain the concept to me in the past. I certainly had no idea political bias exists in the media. I'm now not only aware it exists, but I am able to identify it'. (#student 1).

'Before this course I stayed in a bubble and had no idea about politics. After doing this course I have found myself watching the news and to try and follow what is happening...I feel more confident about what watching and understanding what I watch, read and listen to' (#student 2)







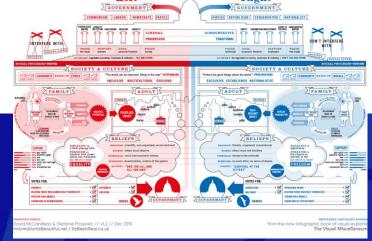


### **Student artefact**

Connecting stance of author to political world-views in assignment increased in submissions, with greater clarity and sophistication.

The worldview presented from the author of this report is both progressive and conservative and aims to contribute to ongoing gender politics debate. The author included progressive worldviews, advocating for fairness by including NewsCorp columnist Suzie O'Brien (2017), who was quoted saying, "When you've got 12 per cent of people in the army who are female then you've clearly got to address the balance." The report also quoted Defence Minister Christopher Pyne (2017), "We don't have enough women in the armed forces and we are trying to encourage more [women] to be a part of that society." The author also included conservative views in the report by quoting 2GB radio host Chris Smith (2017), who held a conservative moral standpoint, upholding traditional and patriarchal ideologies. "The disparity might not be due to discrimination but less women 'putting their hand up' for defence force jobs." Chris Smith was quoted saying (2017). #student 5





# Case Study – Tanya Weiler

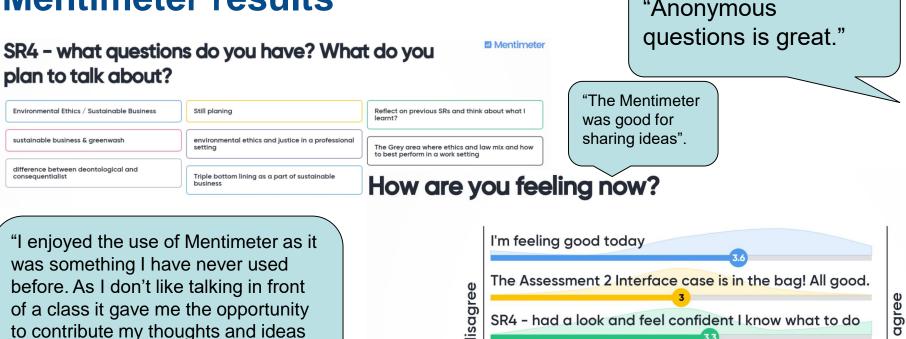
- My research questions:
- How does utilizing a mobile platform that connects with student lifeworlds (Mentimeter) to pose questions in tutorials build student engagement in a third year business ethics course? \*\*(this idea was that of the course coordinator who implemented this and created the content)

2. Will my approach to teaching in this course using enabling pedagogies be recognized by students as meeting their needs at this level of study, and/or recognized as being different to those in their other courses?

- My hopeful ideas
- 1. Using Mentimeter will lead to increased engagement from all students, improved preparation for tutorials and make those who are less likely to speak up willing to contribute.
- 2. Using enabling pedagogies at an undergraduate level (specifically student lifeworlds and pedagogies of care) will connect strongly with students.



### **Mentimeter results**



of a class it gave me the opportunity to contribute my thoughts and ideas anonymously and have feedback received."



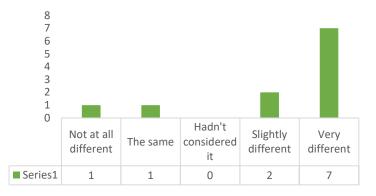
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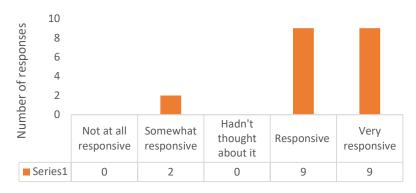
Strongly

### My results – Teaching approach survey

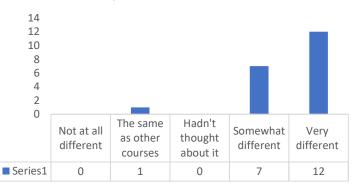
Compared with other courses in your your program, would you say the teaching approach in these tutorials has been:



In terms of your learning needs, have you found the teaching style to be:



How did you find the teaching approach in this course compared to others this semester?







## Survey quotes

The way you interact with students is an important factor for me and the reason I show up to classes.

Teaching style made me come to the tutorial class every week I very much enjoyed the way you made us engage with the course material. You didn't just speak the information you asked us questions and made us reflect and work together to find an answer. I enjoyed your ability to make me comfortable to speak my answers.

Like the teaching style. And good teacher with concern and being friendly.

U

University of South Australia The teaching approach was personalised learning. It was enquiry based and collaborative learning.

I liked the fact that you did not just answer your own questions and rush through things like other courses as it gave us the opportunity to reflect on the course content Interactive with students within the class. Focus on group thinking rather than individual response to questions

Best course and teaching I've had at UniSA

## What did I learn about my practice?

- I think what I learned was that there are higher levels of anxiety or fear about answering questions than I had anticipated in students even at this level of their study. I was surprised that multiple students commented on the anonymity of responses being a positive.
- I often feel that I 'wait' or have long pauses or gaps in tutorials where in the past I have been tempted to fill these with content or explanation. I have been concerned that students would be bored or disengaged by this because the class is not moving quickly enough, but have found the opposite to be true, if anything I need to give students even more time to think, working in collaborative groups is good but does not suit all learners, but having more time and space than I perhaps feel comfortable with has been positively regarded by students.
- The collaboration with the Course Coordinator has deepened our collegial relationship and my understanding of the course as we have tried to problem solve this year as well as make improvements for further iterations.
- The connection with students through technology can be invaluable. At least 65% of the class responded to **every** question posed in the tutorial through Mentimeter, as opposed to only 1 through traditional methods. Whilst this did not seem to improve preparation for tutorials as we'd hoped, it did improve engagement and clarify course questions in tutorials.









#### **UniSA College Action Research Planning Template**

#### 1. SELECTING AN ASPECT OF YOUR TEACHING TO FOCUS ON

[You need to select an aspect of your teaching and consider how this could be adapted to enabling pedagogical approaches]

#### The theory

#### Enabling pedagogy at UniSA College

- Negotiated curriculum
- Inclusive approaches
- Social justice commitment
- Transition pedagogy
- Scaffolding
- Authenticity
- Transformative
- Commitment to praxis
- Culturally responsive
- Student life worlds -> pop culture/community
- Ethos of care
- Sense of hope
- Challenging tasks
- Holistic view of success
- Active democratic participant



#### 2. WORKING ON A REDESIGN THAT TAKES UP THE PEDAGOGICAL CHALLENGE

Key idea. [State the pedagogical challenge that you are working with in your teaching and have a go at stating an idea that has the potential to improve things.]

How does this translate into my curriculum and teaching [State how this idea can be translated into curriculum and or pedagogy.]

What's the learning task(s) [How does this translate into setting your students challenging relevant learning tasks?]

How will students demonstrate their learning? (Multimodal literacy?)



#### 3. ACTION RESEARCH

What is your research question? [Does this question lead to an inquiry? Is it explicitly linked to improving practice? Does it lead to a richer description of what's going on? Or does it focus on what makes a difference?]

What data will you be collecting?

a. recording your reflections for the period that you are researching

b. recording significant teaching moments [video, audio, observer, photograph]

 c. collecting data on student understandings of what is happening [student journals, interviews, focus groups, class meetings, surveys]

d. evidence of student learning [attendance data, student work, test results]



e. assessment plans, assignments, learning contracts, rubrics

### **Small Groups**

- 1. Discuss your draft research questions/teaching challenge
- 2. Share some of that discussion with large group

## **Action Research Project 2020**

UniSA College launches continuous professional development opportunity for sessional staff with mini-action research projects.

This involves meeting once a month as a collective with UniSA College mentors (Min Pham, Sarah Hattam, Snjezana Bilic and Tanya Weiler) and your peers to explore your own teaching challenges and identify how applying enabling pedagogy can support your hopeful idea to overcome the challenge.

#### **Benefits:**

Work collaboratively with peers and mentors Reflect on your teaching in supportive environment Develop deeper understanding of best practice teaching approaches in enabling education (theory of enabling pedagogy) Improve confidence in teaching diverse cohorts Demonstrate expertise over time in teaching diverse cohorts



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