The Project Critical Account

The final project will include a reflective and critical account of the project design and its development *with reference to the relevant literature (*e.g. teaching & student learning in higher education) and the overall objectives and principles of the program. While we encourage diversity and creativity with individual projects, a critical account will normally address the following areas:

Abstract: The abstract should be about **200-250 words** in length, and should offer a concise overview of your critical account. It should identify your rationale underlying your project, a brief context for your project, what you are/were trying to achieve, your key findings (if you have them), implications, key reflections on what you learned. The abstract should accomplish *maximum meaning through minimum words.*

Keywords: With your abstract, please submit **3 keywords**. Please include words that best indicate the teaching and learning associated with your project.

Rationale: What is the question or issue that your project seeks to address? Why is this important? (To you? To your students? More broadly?) This question should be framed in literature (We will be happy to help you locate sources; check Canvas as well).

Project Description: What is the nature and scope of the project in terms of the relevant course: e.g. student numbers, level of the students, student profile(s), nature of classroom environment etc.? Do not simply describe course content.

Project Learning Objectives: What are the main student learning objectives (intellectual, practical, personal and social) of the project? Ideally, these will be framed in terms of some of the concepts of student learning (e.g. deeper vs. surface understanding, critical thinking, problem solving) as they apply to the particular course and discipline.

Project Teaching Methods: What techniques and activities does the project/course employ to help students achieve these learning outcomes? This might include particular small group techniques, specific assignments, particular lecturing approaches, lab techniques, etc.

Project Assessment: What ways (formative and/or summative) of assessing/grading the students' learning objectives did the project employ? How effective was the project in facilitating student learning outcomes?

Project Evaluation: How was the project/course evaluated? Of the techniques/approaches/ ideas employed in teaching, which were successful/less successful? Were there any gaps between what was intended and what was achieved? What will do you differently next time?

Reflections: What lessons have been learned from this project for future courses? Did you learn anything about your teaching or your students this year? Were your ideas about teaching & learning challenged in any way?

References

Acknowledgements: While this is not necessary, most Searle Fellows choose to acknowledge their mentors, colleagues, other fellows, program staff, etc.

Critical Account Guidelines:

Please include the following in your account:
- Project Title – size 16 font
- Your name – size 14 font (footnote: department and email)
- Course title, if applicable – size 12 font
- Abstract/summary- 200-250 words (summarizing your main ideas/findings)
- Keywords (italicized) – 3 words that indicate the teaching & learning associated with your project – size 12 font
- Footer: Left – Last name, and abbreviated title (italicized); Right – Page numbers and total length (XX of XX) – size 12 font
- Appendices (please include sparingly; only if referred to in critical account)

Critical Account Formatting:
Critical accounts should be in Palatino Linotype font, size 12, single spaced, with one inch margins. Do not submit as a PDF. If font type is not available, please submit in Times New Roman and we will format it for you.

Please note: We *can* reproduce charts, figures, and pictures using a **gray scale,** but we cannot reproduce in color. Please use MS Word compatible software in order for us to be able to make necessary formatting adjustments.

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