



Good Practices from Mellon Library Partners, 2003-2004

Designing Journal Article Assignment for Large Enrollment Course

Environment:

Bio 1A 700 students, who have 3 hours of lecture, 3 hours of lab and 1 hour of discussion each week. Library information was presented in a 50 min presentation offered 10 times outside of class. Students received credit for attending library lecture.

Impact:

Students learned of PubMed the key database in Molecular and Cell Biology, Web of Science and Refworks. The course complimented skills taught in Bio 1B on Integrative Biology topics.

Description:

Library sessions discussed appropriate databases and mechanics of searching. Students were presented with a scientific controversy and asked to locate articles on each side. They created a bibliography of 10 articles and chose 3 to discuss. The assignment was broken into parts to ensure students would pace their work and would apply what they learned in the library lecture in the creation of the bibliography. 12 different assignments were given. The bibliographies were due at different times to ensure students would have access to articles and to limit the impact on the library. Some students did have difficulty getting to the articles (many were not available electronically) and we probably should have had more than 12 different assignments for 700 students. Having a number of different assignments and staggering the due dates of the first part limited the impact of 700 students on the reference and reshelving staff.

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