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## Intentionality and Transparency as Pedagogical Techniques in the Information Literacy Classroom

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Library Instruction Round Table Retreat

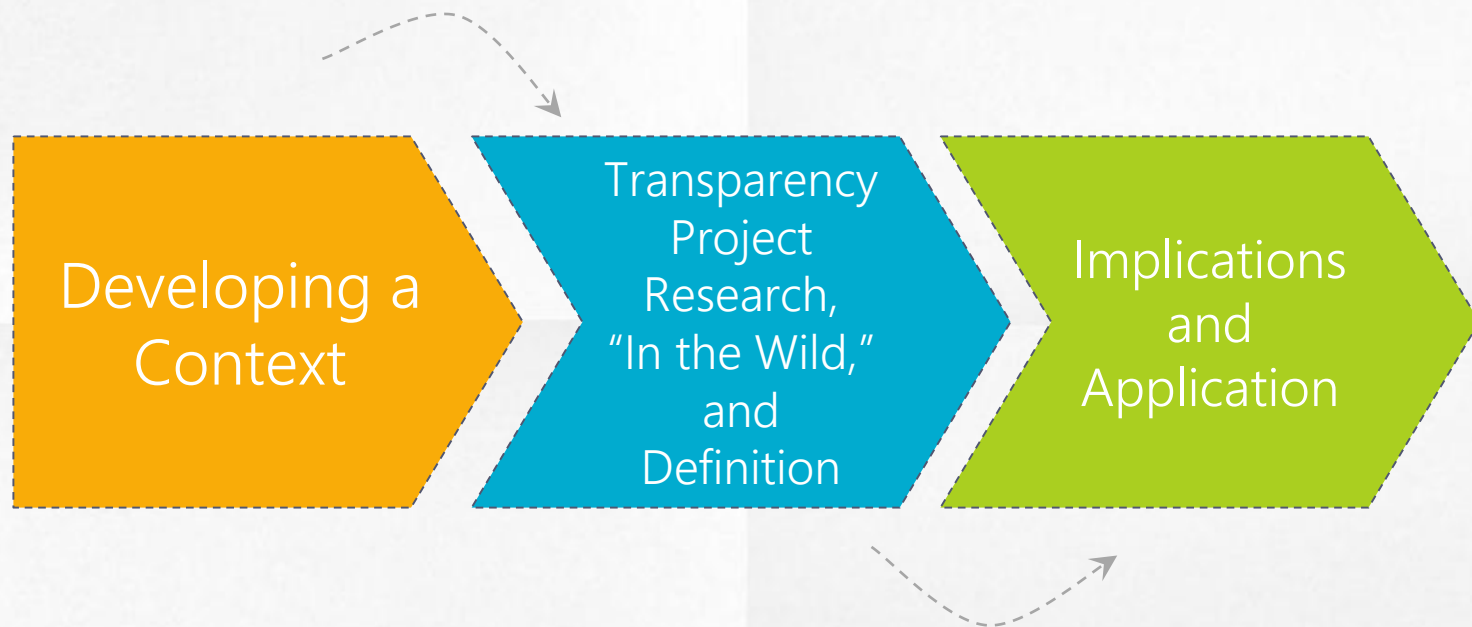
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July 21, 2017



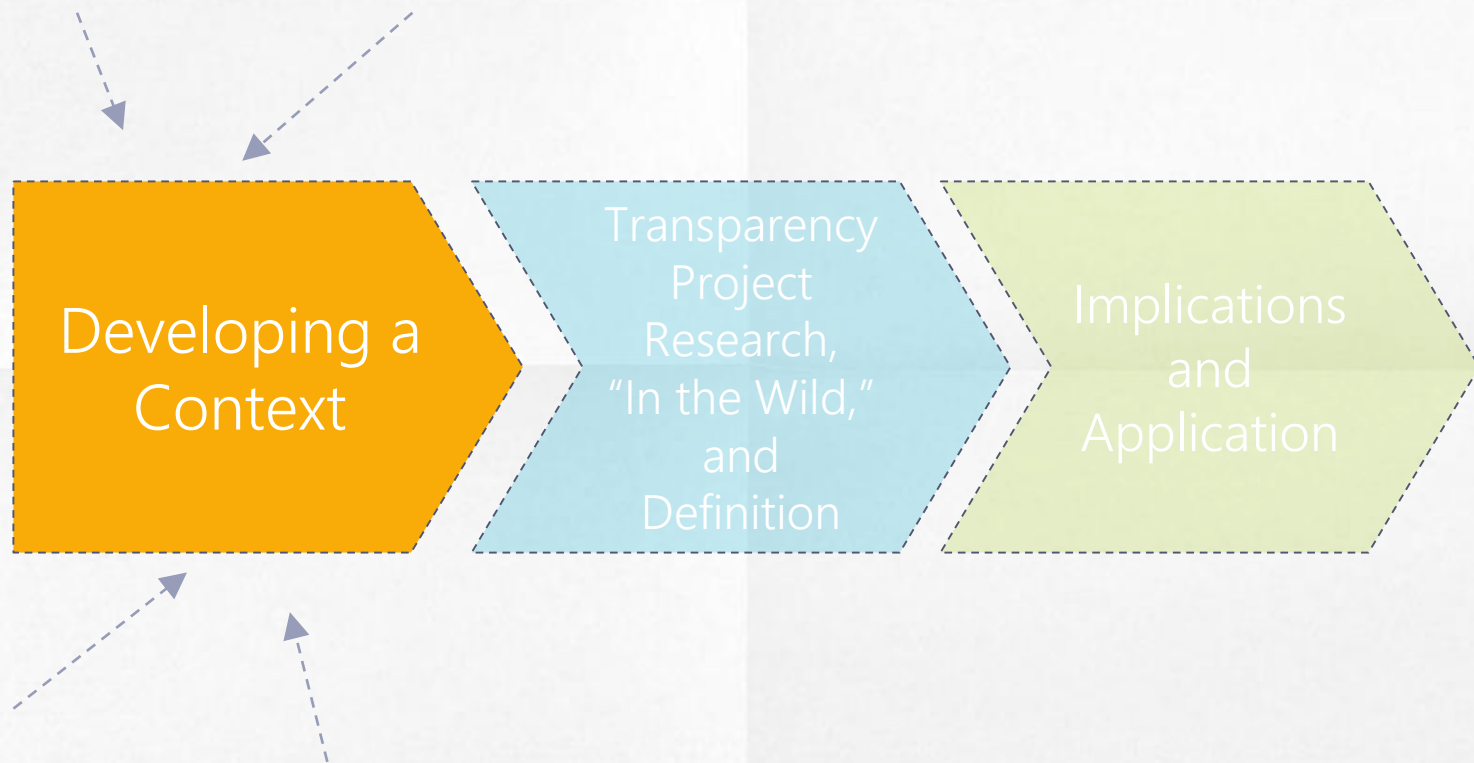
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University of Kentucky

# Today's path



# Today's path

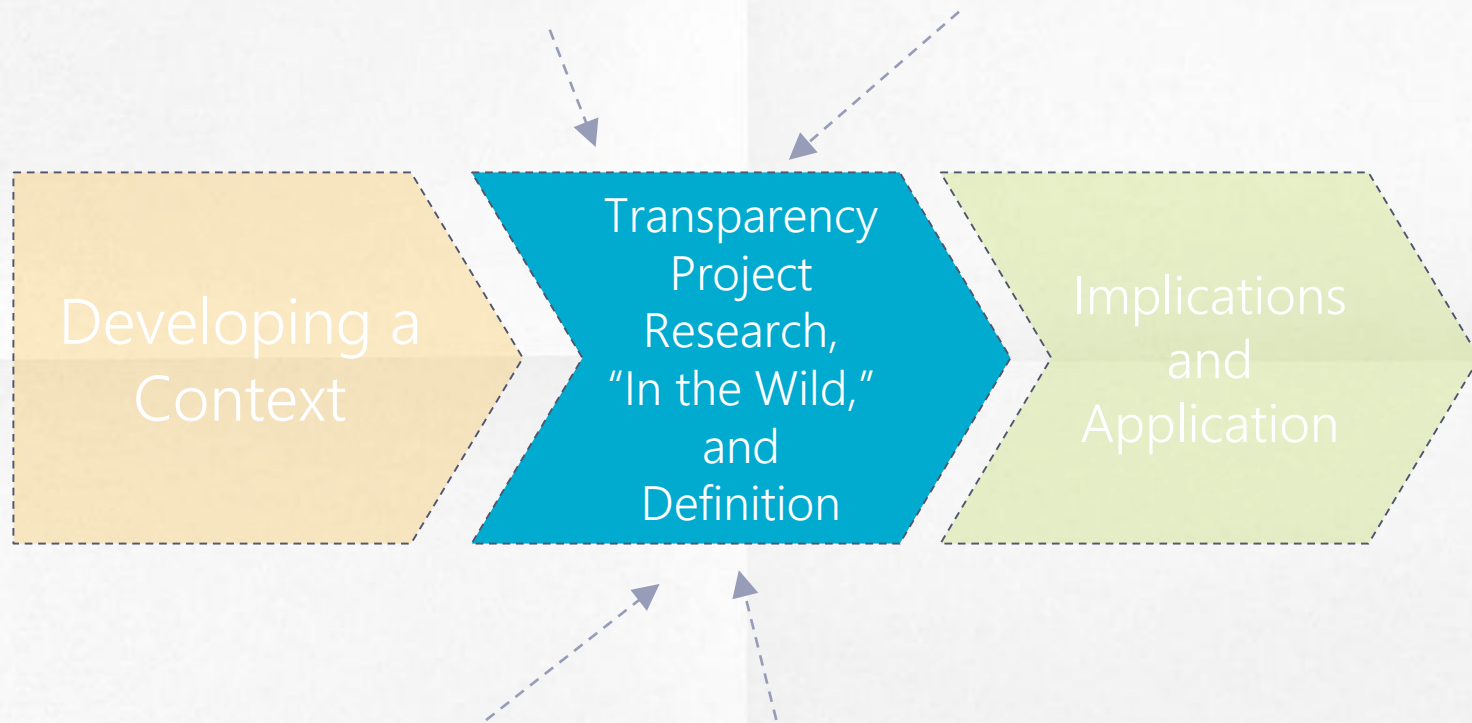




How do you  
develop  
your lesson plans?



# Today's path





# Transparency in Learning and Teaching in Higher Ed Project (*TILT* Higher Ed)

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>





Spring 2013, Vol. 99, No. 2

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Liberal Education

## Transparency in Teaching: Faculty Share Data and Improve Students' Learning

By: [Mary-Ann Winkelmes](#)

Faculty rarely have opportunities to research their students' views about how their best learning happens in college or graduate school. Even less common are the means for teachers to gather such information from colleagues on a large scale and distill it into pragmatic insights about teaching practices best suited to their own particular students. The Illinois Initiative on Transparency in Learning and Teaching is a grassroots assessment project doing just that, and it demonstrably enhances students' learning. The project has two main goals: (1) to promote students' conscious understanding of how they learn; and (2) to enable faculty to gather, share, and promptly benefit from data about students' learning by coordinating their efforts across disciplines, institutions, and countries.

Statistically significant early results indicate distinct current and future learning benefits of particular teaching and learning methods that are specific to discipline, class size, level of expertise, and student demographics. Reporting of the results

25,000 students

160 courses

27 institutions

7 countries

Winkelmes, M. (2013). Transparency in teaching: Faculty share data and improve students' learning.  
*Liberal Education*, 99(2), 48.

## Statistically significant transparent methods from 2013 study:



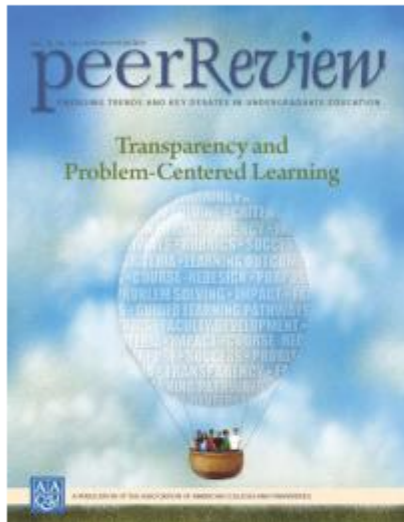
Explicitly connect “how people learn” data with course activities when students struggle at transition points



Gauge students’ understanding during class via peer work on questions that require students to apply concepts you’ve taught



Discuss assignments’ learning goals before students begin each assignment



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## Peer Review

# A Teaching Intervention that Increases Underserved College Students' Success

By: Mary-Ann Winkelmes, Matthew Bernacki, Jeffrey Butler, Michelle Zochowski, Jennifer Golanics and Kathryn Harriss Weavil

The challenge to provide equitable opportunities for college students to succeed is a critical priority for the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). In 2014, AAC&U partnered with the Transparency in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (*TILT* Higher Ed) project, founded at the University of Illinois and now housed at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on an initiative that significantly increases underserved college students' success. TG Philanthropy funded the Transparency and Problem-Centered Learning project ([www.aacu.org/problemcenteredlearning](http://www.aacu.org/problemcenteredlearning)), with Tia McNair, Ashley Finley, and Mary-Ann Winkelmes as the coinvestigators. In its first year, the endeavor has identified a simple, replicable teaching intervention that demonstrably enhances students' success, especially that of first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented college students in multiple ways at statistically significant levels, with a medium to large magnitude of effect. These results offer implications for how faculty can

Mary-Ann Winkelmes

## FIGURE 1. TRANSPARENT ASSIGNMENT TEMPLATE

### Purpose

- Skills practiced
  - Knowledge gained
- } relevance to students 5 years out  
connection to Learning Outcomes

### Task

- What to do
- How to do it

### Criteria

- What excellence looks like (multiple annotated examples)
- Criteria in advance to help students to self-evaluate

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Spot  
the differences!

**Exercise 3: Scientific Evidence**

Read through your example scientific poster and answer the following questions.

Title of your example poster:

1. What is the ethical question that is being asked?
2. What pieces of evidence do they provide in support of **and** in opposition of their question?  
In Opposition:   In Support
3. Are the pieces of evidence from peer-reviewed scientific sources (look at the references to be sure)?
4. How are the pieces of evidence presented (numbers, graphs, tables, figures)?
5. How are the pieces of evidence analyzed in the Discussion section?
6. What is the ethical conclusion?
7. Do the pieces of evidence support their conclusion? Why or why not?
8. Are you convinced by their evidence of their ethical conclusion? Why or why not?
9. What questions do you still have after reading this poster? What could they have done better?



(MORE TRANSPARENT)

SCI 101, Alison Sloat

**Exercise 3: Scientific Evidence**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to analyze an existing scientific poster. This will increase your familiarity with how scientific posters are constructed, and will help you later in the course when you research, design, and create your own effective poster with sufficient scientific evidence that supports your conclusion. As a result of completing this assignment, you will be able to identify the sources of scientific information, interpret the results, and critically analyze the scientific merit of the conclusion of an existing scientific poster.

**Task:** Read through your example scientific poster and answer the following questions.

Title of your example poster:

1. Identify the ethical question that is being asked.
2. List the evidence the authors provide in support of **and** in opposition to their question.
3. Examine the pieces of evidence listed in #2 above. Identify whether they are from popular (Pop), scientific peer-reviewed (SPR), or non-scientific peer-reviewed (NSPR) sources, and note each statement above as (Pop), (SPR), or (NSPR). Do you think there is enough scientific evidence from peer-reviewed articles? Why or why not?
4. Describe how the pieces of evidence are presented (e.g., numbers, graphs, tables, figures).
5. Explain how the pieces of evidence are analyzed in the Discussion section.
6. Identify the ethical conclusion.
7. After analyzing the content of the poster, do the pieces of evidence support their conclusion? Explain why or why not.
8. After assessing the scientific merit of their evidence, are you convinced of their ethical conclusion? Explain why or why not.
9. List the questions you still have after reading this poster. What could they have done better?

**Criteria:** The grade on this assignment will reflect how completely you answer the questions.

# Results: Students noticed . . .

---



## **Connecting**

information from a variety of sources



## **Learning**

on your own



## **Applying**

knowledge and skills to different contexts



## **Writing**

effectively



## **Judging**

the reliability of information from various sources



## **Considering**

opinions or points of view different from your own

\* Results seen in all students. Even more significant results seen in underserved student groups (first-generation, multiracial, and low socio-economic status)

## Results: Faculty noticed . . .

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**Students' motivation**  
in class



**Higher-level**  
class discussions with  
sharper focus



**On-time**  
completion of  
assignments



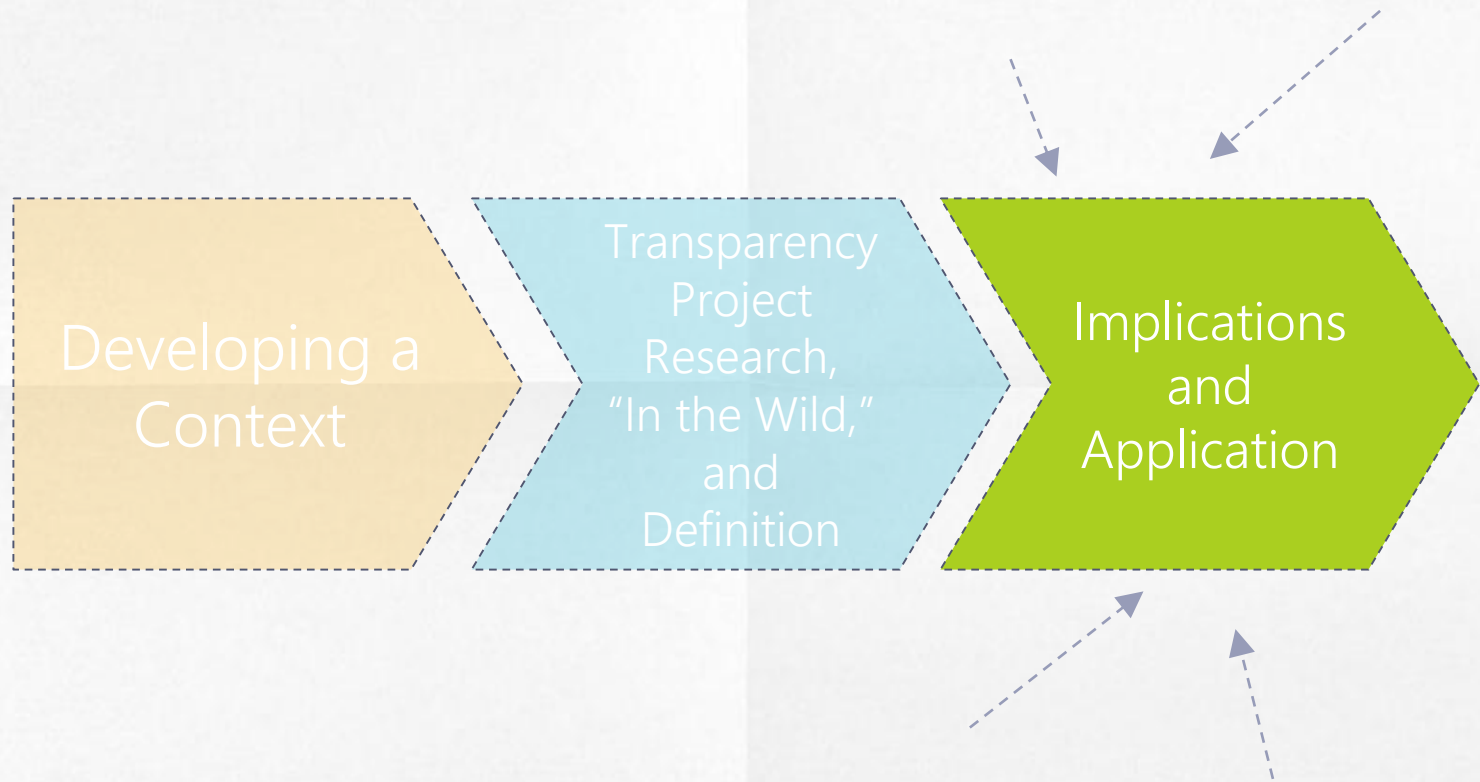
**Fewer**  
disputes about grades

# Transparent teaching

How do  
**you**  
define it?



# Today's path



1.



# Relevancy and Motivation



*When we remind students why they are learning something (not just what they are learning), we appeal to a different part of their thinking. We tap into their motivation to learn.*

2.



# Teachers, Knowledge, and Expectations





It has been said that change is inevitable, but growth is intentional. If this is true, then intentionality is crucial to becoming a great teacher.

3.

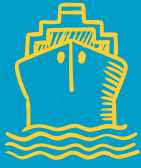


Assessment

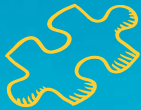


*What is most important is that teaching is visible to the student, and that the learning is visible to the teacher.*

# Application ideas



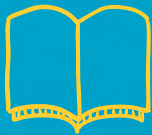
Let students know why you are part of their class



Articulate the learning outcome early; repeat



Show assessment questions at the beginning



Let students know how professional reading informed the development of an activity/worksheet/lesson plan, etc.

**Other ideas?**

Final thought:



*Although a teacher may be clear on what her intentions are when planning, the results are diminished considerably when learners remain unaware of them.*

## Further reading

Fisher, D., Frey, N., & Hite, S. (2016). *Intentional and targeted teaching: A framework for teacher growth and leadership*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

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Winkelmes, M. (2013). Transparency in teaching: Faculty share data and improve students' learning. *Liberal Education*, 99(2), 48-55.

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*Thank you!*

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