GIFTS
Great Ideas for Teaching Students
World Café Method
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The World Café method is an activity designed to boost participation and collaboration in the classroom. The idea is to create an informal, café-like setting where students can feel comfortable engaging in dialogue with one another. Here’s how to implement the World Café into your classroom:

What you’ll need:

- Several big pieces of paper
- Markers or colored pencils

1. Break the class into groups of about 5 or 6
2. Choose a host for the table. (Note: Do not ask for volunteers. The host should be chosen at random. I usually choose the person whose last name comes first in alphabetical order in each group).
3. The host is in charge of writing down everyone’s ideas. They are the facilitators of their group. Here are some tips to give your host:
   a. Make sure each group member gets a chance to talk.
   b. If someone appears to be dominating the conversation, encourage them to practice their listening skills.
   c. If someone is more hesitant to speak up, encourage them to talk more.
   d. Listen to everyone’s ideas. Ask for clarification to ensure you understand what someone is saying.
   e. Thank everyone for their ideas.
   f. Write down words and phrases that stand out while people are talking. Make sure everyone’s ideas get written down.

When everyone is in a group and has a host, then you can begin with the first round of questions. Depending on the size of the groups, each round can last from about 10-20 minutes so everyone gets a chance to speak.

Choose open-ended questions that invite students to self-reflect and think critically. The beauty of the World Café is it can be modified to fit any discipline, so you can choose any questions you want. Depending on the number of rounds and the length of each round (I usually do 3-4), this activity can take about 30-45 minutes.

I have used this activity in my ENGWR 300 class and my COMM 331 class. This activity can change the whole energy of the room (for the better). It is common to see everyone laughing and smiling throughout the activity, and you should see an increase in participation for the rest of the class period.

Here are some links providing more information and examples of the World Café method:
http://www.theworldcafe.com/key-concepts-resources/world-cafe-method/
https://www.bmartin.cc/pubs/11sa/Carson.html

If you would like to read previous GIFTS, please visit Faculty Resources located on the Center for Professional Development website: https://www.crc.losrios.edu/facstaff/pd/resources/faculty. If you would like to contribute to the GIFT Series, please contact Georgine Hodgkinson, PD Coordinator, at hodgkig@crc.losrios.edu.