By Your Powers Combined: The Essential Elements of Dynamic First-Year Seminar Classrooms

Rico Reed

Lauren Hall Rippy

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Four Phase Model for Class Engagement

1. Class Building/Developing Community
2. Identifying Learner Needs and Characteristics
3. Resource Discovery & Use
4. Bridging and Transition

J. N. Gardner (1981), *Developing Faculty as Facilitators and Mentors*, New Directions for Student Services, 14 (pp.67-80)

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Phase 1: Group Building/Developing Community

- Reduces anxiety in individuals and communication barriers within the class
- Increases level of trust among students
- Increases class cohesiveness

Ice-breaker exercises
Activities to learn names

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Phase 2: Identifying Class Needs and Characteristics

- Focuses on course goals
- Individualizes lesson plans
- Increases buy-in of students

Empathic recall
Guided activities
Structured reflection

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Phase 3: Resource Discovery & Use

- Develops and uses teaching strategies
- Recognizes resources in students and class
- Identifies campus and community resources
- Provides ideas for learning applications
- Empowers students

Guest speakers
Peer Leader Guidance
Group presentations on course content

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Phase 4: Bridging and Transition

- Creates structure for reflection and evaluation
- Moves learning from abstract to application
- Addresses goal setting/next steps
- Enables learning to extend beyond workshop

Reflection that processes learning
Exercises that demonstrate learning
Affirming closing activities

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Innovative Pedagogies

Data from the National Survey of First-Year Seminars 2003, 2006, 2009, NRCFYESIT

- Service-learning components

- Linkages to one or more other courses

- Online components

- Incorporating a common reading program

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

High Impact Practices

Data from the National Survey of First-Year Seminars 2012-2013, NRCFYESIT

- Various forms of writing
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Exploration of cultures, life experiences, and worldviews different from their own

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Assessing Efforts
Why are Learning Goals Important?
Suskie, 2004

Helps Learners
- Understand what they are learning and why
- Learn more effectively
- Organize their learning

Helps Faculty Developers
- Design the program
- Communicate with colleagues
- Justify the program
- Assess the program

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Recognition and Rewards

- Simple acknowledgements
- Formal expressions
- Tangible recognition 'certificates'
- Feedback

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Student Development

- Personal assessments
  - MBTI, True Colors, Big Five
- Personal development
  - Work-life balance, wellness, assertiveness

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Additional Resources

- FYE Listserv
- Esource for College Transitions
- Toolbox
- Conferences, Institutes, and Online Courses

- www.sc.edu/fye

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Questions?

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye

Contact Us

- Rico Reed
- rico@sc.edu

- Lauren Hall Rippy
- hallla@mailbox.sc.edu

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE® AND STUDENTS IN TRANSITION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.sc.edu/fye