Creating Student-Centered Learning Environments

Jhoanna Mendez and Sarah Wilcoxon

PIE Coffee Hour and Workshop Series
As a result of attending this workshop, you’ll be able to...

- Describe student-centered learning
- Discuss the benefits of student-centered learning
- Incorporate pedagogical practices that promote student-centered learning
What is Student Centered Learning?

- Engages students in the “work” of learning
- Focuses on skill instruction and encourages reflection
- Encourages collaboration and reflection
- Gives students some control of the learning process
- Learning is flexible - taking place anytime and anywhere

*Five Characteristics of Learner-Centered Teaching (Weimer, 2012)*
Why Student Centered Learning?

- **The Knowledge Base**
  Students learn more using what they already know.

- **Strategic Processing and Executive Control**
  Students think about and monitor their own learning; they take responsibility.

- **Motivation and Affect**
  There is greater student motivation, commitment, and achievement.

- **Development and Individual Differences**
  Students tailor their learning experience in a way that will be most beneficial for them.

*Learner-Centered Teaching* (Blumberg, 2014)
Two broad ways to think about it

1. Promote Collaboration
   Are there creative ways you can get students talking about the material? How can you get them problem solving in teams?

2. Consider Engagement
   If there wasn’t an attendance policy, would they come? Would you? Why?

   What are you doing when students are most engaged in your class? What about when they are least engaged?
Break Time
Flexibility of learning

How would/does your department incorporate flexibility into courses that meet every week at a scheduled time?

How can we incorporate technology in order to offer said flexibility?

Culture Shift: Teaching in a Learner-Centered Environment Powered By Digital Learning (Ledesma, 2011)
The changing role of the Instructor

As an Instructor, what role do you play in the classroom?

- Facilitator of Learning
- User of Data and Assessments
- Collaborator with peers
- Curriculum Adapter and Designer

*Culture Shift: Teaching in a Learner-Centered Environment Powered By Digital Learning (Ledesma, 2011)*
Proven Pedagogical Practices

1. Clarifying learning goals
2. Providing meaningful and appropriate feedback
3. Assessing for learning to inform instruction
4. Tracking progress and diagnosing learning needs
5. Providing guided and independent practice
6. Collaborative learning
7. Providing support for students’ task engagements and performances
8. Providing the student with control of his or her learning
9. Eliciting student work to demonstrate understanding of specific language and concepts
Demonstration

1. What issues are present? What are their implications?
2. How can we modify this environment to make it student centered?
Grammar Review

The Past Tense

What did you do last week?
Grammar Review

The Past Tense

What **did** you do **last week**?
Actividad C p35
¿Qué hiciste este verano?

Con un compañero, pregunta y responde las siguientes preguntas de acuerdo con el modelo.

MODELO: vacación → E1: ¿Fuiste de vacaciones este verano?
E2: Sí, fui a Kansas. (No, me quedé aquí.)

1) Nadar en el océano
2) Ir a un campamento
3) Jugar voleibol
4) Comer helado
Demonstration

1. What issues are present? What are their implications?
2. How can we modify this environment to make it student centered?