











---

tive elements of the reflection component to be using student leaders as reflection facilitators, varying the modes of reflection, utilizing concrete materials to guide each reflection, and having reflection occur continuously.

The first effective element of reflection in this course is using student leaders as facilitators. The student leaders are volunteers who have participated in service-learning before, some even in "Identity, Diversity, and Community." The student leaders are trained in small group facilitation and have experienced a variety of modes of reflection previously. Thus, the student leaders have some expertise in service-learning itself (volunteering and taking a service-learning course), as well as in facilitation. The student leaders are effective because they serve as role models for the students. They inspire the students to engage fully with their community partner and assuage the students' anxieties and the related vulnerability they may feel about service-learning. The younger students end up thinking to themselves, "this older student got through their own service-learning challenges, so I can too."

Three additional effective elements of the reflection component of this course are using a variety of reflection methods, using concrete materials, and having reflection occur continuously. Since there are ten reflection sessions over the course of the year and since the students' capacity for reflection and meaning-making increases over time, varying the types of reflection stimulates the students' thinking each time. We try a mix of silent, written reflection, working in pairs and in small groups, and working with different materials such as poems, articles, and video clips. We find that using these materials has a lasting impact on the students, as the poems, articles, and video clips stay with them over the course of time, even more so than particular academic theories. This is evidenced in the above quote about the student reflecting on Mary Oliver's poem, "Lead." For that student, the Mary Oliver poem turned into a touchstone for her that enabled learning, meaning-making, and ultimate growth. Other materials we utilize for reflection include: excerpts from Robert D. Lupton's (2011) book, *Toxic Charity*; a guided reflection with questions about observations; Keith Morton's reflection, "Star Sh Hurling and Commodity Service"; David Hilker's (2000) article, "The Limits of Charity"; the Ignatian spiritual practice, *the Examen*; interview questions for the students to interview each other about their service-learning experiences; and a concept from Virginia Woolf's writing, "moments of being." Finally, the reflection

## Introduction

In December 2013, I was a university professor with just over six years of full-time teaching experience. That same month, I took my first yoga class and was immediately hooked. It wasn't long before I had an almost daily practice. And as I took more classes with more teachers, I began to notice that there were certain identifiable things that the better yoga teachers did, just as there were certain things that some instructors did that were less effective, or even detrimental, for my learning. And that's when it hit me that I wasn't just learning yoga poses. Rather, as an eager but struggling novice attempting to learn and master a new endeavor, every class I took and every instructor I had were also providing opportunities to learn more about what makes for effective teaching and learning, generally.

Intrigued by this realization, I began keeping a detailed journal of my experiences as a new yoga student. In this journal, I reflected on the classes I took and the teachers who led them. In particular, I focused on my teachers, noting their personalities, their habits, the strategies they employed, and how effective I found each of these for my own learning and improvement.







---

PDSA approach. This involved an iterative process of generating ideas from opportunities and of collecting, analyzing, and acting on formative data to inform instructional decisions. Two opportunities we seized on to enhance the level and quality of student engagement in the online leadership course were the availability of a novel application for communication, Zoom Video Communications (Zoom, <https://www.zoom.us>), and the identification of supplemental familiar forms of media, including podcasts and TED Talks.

The introduction of program-wide access to Zoom sparked a move from teacher-led, direct instruction during synchronous sessions to a more student-centered approach, with each participant's presence felt through both video and audio stream. Real-time Zoom video discussions replaced three asynchronous text-based discussions. Each session involved small groups of students (n = 5 to 10) engaging in authentic dialogue that linked academic research and real-world applications.

The real-time video connection promoted peer-to-peer and instructors-to-students interactions, supporting both social and cognitive presence, including students' ability to verbalize their emerging knowledge and understanding, a vital skill for doctoral students.

Cognitive presence was also developed through supplemental viewing and listening activities using web-based, mainstream, publicly available audio podcasts, such as National Public Radio's *Atari & Chuck E. Cheese's: Nolan Bushnell - How I Built It* (2017), and video presentations, such as Linda Cliatt-Wayman's TED Talk on leadership, *How to Fix a Broken School? Lead Fearlessly, Love Hard* (2015). The inclusion of these real-world leadership examples supported cognitive presence by providing a shared referent for discussion. This helped to move discussions beyond connections of course materials to students' individual professional contexts. The use of familiar media created a low risk, common ground that allowed students to reflectively, collaboratively, and critically bring together personal and shared worlds (Ke, 2010; Males et al., 2010; van Es, 2012) - a process, according to Lajoie (2014), that takes social construction of knowledge to a new level.

### **Formative Feedback for Ongoing Improvement**

To support and inform our ongoing, iterative design process and PDSA cycles, we collected data from students related to their experience and perceptions through online surveys after each Zoom session. The instructional team examined and discussed the survey data and observation notes from the LEO

Zoom sessions during weekly debriefs through both email and Zoom. This process of adapting components of the learning activities in the course based on our observations and student input was made transparent for students. We shared summaries of the feedback and planned course adaptations (e.g., to future sessions) through email and Zoom.



---

Duggan, W.R. (2007). *Strategic intuition: The creative spark in human achievement*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Garrison, D.R., Anderson, T., & Archer, W. (2000). Critical inquiry in a text-based environment: Computer conferencing in higher education. *The Internet and Higher Education*, 2(2-3), 87-105. doi: 10.1016/S1096-7516(00)00016-6.

Garrison, D.R., Anderson, T., & Archer, W. (2010). The first decade of the community of inquiry framework: A retrospective. *The Internet and Higher Education*, 13, 5-9. doi: 10.1016/j.iheduc.2009.11.003.

i 2 (n6 01 T ()r) i



---

in themselves. Secondly, I hoped that they would think about the idea of teaching/learning from a different perspective. In many of their final papers, students commented that teaching could be very rewarding, but it was also more difficult than they

the familiar. I have found myself inspired by students' investment in and excitement for many of the readings, activities, and assignments I have developed and utilized in this endeavor. As one student wrote on a course evaluation, in response to my question about the use and value of studying popular culture in this fashion, "It's almost like another sense. In a way I was blind but now I can see. [It] Helps me see things from the inside out." When I hear students write comments like these, it not only assures me that they are grasping the learning objectives, but, more importantly, it shows me that their learning is extending beyond the classroom.

*R n s*

*Adbusters. Retrieved from <https://www.adbusters.org/>*

---

fore proposed an elimination of the dichotomies of “teaching versus research” and “theory versus application” by recognizing all four aspects of a faculty member’s job as equally important for advancing the academy and for tenure and promotion.

SOTL can start from a variety of sources. You can examine an innovation you have made in your teaching, a department’s attempt to teach a new learning outcome, techniques to address the learning needs of shifting student demographics, changes in learner behavior that resulted from the integration of new technologies, etc. Getting started is as simple as noticing something of interest in your teaching that you would like to study. You are then ready to move from a personal, disciplinary understanding of your teaching to a transpersonal, cross-disciplinary view of the phenomenon. Note that most SOTL research is participatory- most faculty are examining changes made to their own teaching.

The steps of SOTL are similar to any research. Once you identify the topic you should get a better understanding of how it has been understood at your institution, in the literature of your field and in teaching journals. Reviewing the literature will help



build upon their experiences, reflecting more deeply each time when they are working to understand, analyze, and learn from their service-learning experience.

### Conclusion

As a high impact practice, service-learning has the potential to be an experience where students can learn effectively and grow, as well as improve their overall academic and personal success. For the pedagogy of service-learning to reach its full potential, we have learned through the “Identity, Diversity, and Community” course that encouraging meaning-making is critical. Service-learning components that encourage meaning-making are structured service (having the service experience match the goals and objectives of the course to which it is attached) and reflection. Not only have these two elements encouraged our service-learning students to make meaning, but they have helped students develop their meaning-making capacities. In many cases, participating in service-learning and subsequently developing the capacity to make meaning has transformed students. Students have learned more about who they are, their place in the world, and how they can enact positive social justice-oriented change. Students have also become more confident in themselves and their abilities, which are important for achieving success in higher education and beyond. In the ever-changing and increasingly anxiety-inducing world of higher

education, it is important to highlight, support, and reproduce high impact practices that encourage meaning-making and help students better learn and understand themselves.

### References

- Abes, E. S., Jones, S. R., McEwen, M. K. (2007). *Reconceptualizing the Model of Multiple Dimensions of Identity: The role of meaning-making capacity in the construction of multiple identities*. *Journal of College Student Development*, 48, 1-22.
- Adichie, C. (2009, July). *The Danger of a Single Story*. Retrieved from: [https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story).
- Boyle, G. (2005). *The voice of those who sing*. *Spiritus*, 5, 79-87.
- Bringle, R.G. & Hatcher, J.A. (1996). *Implementing service-learning in higher education*. *Journal of Higher Education*, 67(2), 221-239.
- Eyler, J., Giles, D., Jr., & Schmiede, A. (1996). *A practitioner's guide to reflection in service-learning: Student voices & reflections*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press.
- Kammer, F. (2014). *Key Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ye1Zv0udtCc>.
- Kuh, G.D. (2008). *High-impact educational practices: What they are, who has access to them, and why they matter*. Washington, DC: Association of American Colleges and Universities.
- Sanford, N. (1966). *Self & society: Social change and individual development*. New York, NY: Atherton Press.
- Twenge, J.M. (2017). *iGen: Why today's super-connected kids are growing up less rebellious, more tolerant, less happy—and completely unprepared for adulthood*. New York, NY: Atria Books.

, 201

E"6, -8&' \$.<"\$5)&)7/\$8&\$.<"\$52)(\$F 8&"9\$  
@&?8"/.\$)&\*\$G.7"66\$H2"6\$.2\$52(("' "9\$B<).\$.2\$I &2#>\$B<).\$.2\$O29



1 5

the increased demands of college—academic rigor, independent living, social pressures, social media, financial

will examine what faculty can and must do to help students find appropriate professional support. Attendees will also learn some very practical "first-responder" strategies that can help them move students from stress to de-stress within the college classroom—without sacrificing academic standards.

\*( )

**President****Marc Ebenfeld, Ph.D.**

Director of the Center for Curricular  
 Director, Center for Teaching Innovation  
**Salem State University**  
 Meier Hall 115  
 352 Lafayette St  
 Salem MA 01970  
 978-542-6718  
 MnEbenfeld@gmail.com

**Vice President****Annie Soisson, Ed.D.**

Vice President  
 Associate Director, Center for the  
 Enhancement of Learning and Teaching  
**Tufts University**  
 108 Bromfield Road  
 Somerville, MA 02144  
 617-627-4007  
 annie.soisson@tufts.edu

**Secretary****Eric Matte, M.S.**

Associate Professor of Communication  
**Landmark College**  
 1 River Rd  
 Putney, Vt. 05346  
 802-387-1675  
 ematte@landmark.edu  
 @profmatte

**Associate Secretary****Linda Bruenjes, Ed.D.**

Director, Center for Teaching &  
 Scholarly Excellence  
**Suolk University**  
 73 Tremont Street  
 Boston, MA 02108  
 617-725-4137  
 lbruenjes@suolk.edu

**Treasurer****Kimberly Monk, Ed.D, CHE**

Chair, Department of Hospitality  
 Business  
 School of Business  
**Southern New Hampshire University**  
 2500 North River Road  
 Manchester, NH 03104  
 k.monk@snhu.edu

**Former President****Dakin Burdick, Ph.D.**

Instructional Designer & Technologist  
**Eastern Nazarene College**  
 23 East Elm Avenue  
 Quincy, MA 02170  
 617-745-3803  
 dakin.burdick@enc.edu  
 @dakinburdick

**Deborah Clark, Ph.D.**

Professor of Biology  
**Quinnipiac University**  
 275 Mount Carmel Ave.,  
 Hamden, CT 06518-1908  
 203-582-8270  
 Fax: 203-582-3524  
 Deborah.Clark@quinnipiac.edu

**Chris Hakala, Ph.D.**

Director, Center for Excellence in  
 Teaching, Learning and Scholarship  
 Professor of Psychology  
**Springfield College**  
 Harold C. Smith Learning Commons  
 263 Alden Street  
 Springfield, MA 01109  
 413-748-4401  
 chakala@springfield.edu

**Carol Hurney, Ph.D.**

Director, Center for Teaching & Learning  
**Colby College**  
 5165 Mayflower Hill  
 Waterville, ME 04901  
 Phone: (207) 859-5166  
 cahurney@colby.edu

**Laura L. O'Toole, Ph.D.**

Professor of Sociology and Senior Faculty  
 Fellow for Community Engagement in the  
 Center for Teaching and Learning  
**Salve Regina University**  
 100 Ochre Point Avenue  
 Newport, RI 02840  
 401-341-3183  
 laura.otoole@salve.edu

**Lori Rosenthal, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean, School of Humanities,  
 Education, Justice & Social Sciences  
 Professor of Psychology  
**Lasell College**  
 1844 Commonwealth Ave.  
 Newton, MA 02466  
 617-243-2074  
 lrosenthal@lasell.edu  
 @rosenthallori

**Peter Shea, M.A.**

Director, Office of Professional  
 Development  
**Middlesex Community College**  
 591 Springs Road  
 Bedford, MA 01730  
 781-280-3561  
 sheap@middlesex.mass.edu

**Cindy Tobery, Ph.D.**

Associate Director, Dartmouth Center  
 for the Advancement of Learning  
**Dartmouth College**  
 102 Baker-Berry Library, HB6247  
 Hanover, NH 03755  
 603-646-9750  
 Fax: 603-646-6906  
 cindy.tobery@Dartmouth.edu

**Susan Tashjian, M.Ed.**

Coordinator of Instructional Technology  
 e Center for Instructional Technology  
 and Distance Learning



Springfield College  
Springfield, MA 01109

Springfield College  
Springfield, MA 01109