1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 steps to designing a SENCER model in 1 hour

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(with slides and session designed by SENCER leaders Karen Oates, Cathy Middlecamp, and Ellen Goldey)
Step 1 - Overview …

- Sort
- Brainstorm themes
- Choose target audience & 1 theme
- Establish learning outcomes
- Identify resources
- Envision the process
- Make a poster
- Present it!

5 min
Step 2 - Sort ...

- ...into interdisciplinary teams. Please be willing to quickly move your chairs, etc. to form your group. CHOOSE a timekeeper who needs to start keeping track of time NOW.

- You will need:
  - a stack of sticky notes and a marker
  - a sheet or two of flip chart paper for your final poster.

5 min
Step 3 – Brainstorm Themes

- SILENTLY: If you had the opportunity to teach about a capacious civic issue, which ISSUES might intrigue you AND your students? Consider issues that you think are important for all students (i.e., citizens of this locale, region, nation, and/or planet) to understand and engage in, and try not to be constrained by your own expertise in identifying these themes.

- Write EACH of your ideas on a separate sticky note.

- DON’T comment on each other’s ideas yet.
Step 4 – Choose a Target Audience and One Theme to Develop

- As a group, pick your target audience (e.g., first-year, developmental, non-science majors, seniors, etc.), and come to consensus on one theme/civic issue that you will develop as your group’s SENCER/Humanities/SocSci model. If your group members have widely divergent interests, simply take a leap of faith and settle on one of the themes.
Step 5 – Establish Desired Learning Outcomes

- Given an imaginary quarter, semester or year in which your group was teaching around this theme, brainstorm 3-4 primary learning outcomes
  a) for your students to achieve, and
  b) for you & your colleagues to achieve.

- Try to move beyond “gaining broader content knowledge” as a learning outcome.

- Write down your ideas on sticky notes.

10 min
Step #6 – Identify Resources

- Will your team use a single course, a Learning Community, or other type of program to implement the theme?

- Brainstorm courses, disciplines, faculty members, staff members, undergraduate preceptors, external/internal experts, and community resources that might contribute expertise/passion to engaging in the theme.

- Write down your ideas on sticky notes.
Step 7 – Envision the Process

- **Brainstorm ideas for implementing your model.** Think of field experiences, concepts, authors, literature (of various types), films, dramatic performances, research projects, and novel teaching methods that might ACTIVELY engage students in the theme. Don’t let limited budgets constrain your ideas.

- **Put EACH idea on a separate sticky note to later arrange them for the poster.**

5 min
Step 8 – Make Your Poster

- Distill out some of the key ideas and/or activities in your design that might underpin a real opportunity for students. Include at least some of these on your poster:
  - a title that portrays your theme
  - the target audience
  - learning outcomes
  - basic model structure
  - embedded disciplines
  - resources
  - proposed activities

10 min
Step 9 – Present Your Poster

10 min
Designing a SENCER course

- Brainstorm themes & select one
- Choose target audience
- Establish learning outcomes
- Identify resources to help you
- Brainstorm activities to implement your ideas
- Write your syllabus …
- Teach it.
- Relax …