

Using Technology in Learning and Teaching:

Guidelines for a Scholarly Approach

Engaging in a teaching project that uses technology to support student learning may be something that is very familiar to you or it may be something that is very different to your disciplinary-based research area. Here is some guidance to support the development of your project, outlining what you need to achieve. These guidelines will be useful for writing up your project and helping you to get your work published. They have been drawn from Glassick's (2000) framework for scholarship of teaching and learning projects and from Kirkwood and Price's (2011) guidelines for developing evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning with technology. They are summarised as:

1. **Rationale: Statement of Clear Goals for the project**
2. **Literature review – demonstrate adequate preparation**
3. **Appropriate Methods**
4. **Significant Results**
5. **Effective Presentation**
6. **Reflective Critique**
7. **(Going Public – the final aim)**

1. **Rationale: Statement of clear goals for the project**

You will need to include the rationale of the project explaining the basic purpose of the work. You will need to identify what problem are you trying to solve and whether this has been clearly and adequately identified. Will need to explain the objectives (make sure that these are realistic and achievable). You will need to identify important questions for teaching and learning and how addressing these will benefit student learning. Some questions to consider in developing your project are:

- a. Have you stated your goals clearly?
- b. Is the project that you propose viable?
- c. Can you manage to deliver it?
- d. Is it coherent to others?

2. **Literature review – demonstrate adequate preparation**

You will need to show what you have read other reports or articles on similar problems in the field and how they have been addressed. This will enable you to prepare for your project and show that you have an understanding of existing scholarship in this area. You will also need to demonstrate that you bring the necessary skills to this work in order to be able to carry it out. Some other things to consider include

- a. Do you have the necessary resources to carry out the project?
- b. Have you gained the appropriate ethical and project approval?

3. **Methods – are they appropriate?**

You will need to demonstrate that you have used appropriate methods for collecting data for your study. This will include demonstrating that you are collecting the right kind of information for making judgements about the success of your use of technology for teaching and learning. You will also need to show that that you have collected and analysed your data in an appropriate manner. You may also need to demonstrate that you were able to modify your approach in response to changing circumstances, if necessary.

4. **Results – are they significant or appropriate for answering your question**

You will need to demonstrate that you have found results that answer your question. If not, you will need to explain why that is (it is perfectly acceptable and valuable to report on a use of technology in your context that did not prove beneficial for students). You should try to show how your work adds consequently to the field and builds upon previous research and developments. You may want to indicate how this opens up other areas for future research.

5. **Effective Presentation**

You will need to use a suitable style and effective means of organizing your work. You may need to consider what the appropriate forums are for communicating your work to intended audiences and whether the presentation style is appropriate. You will also need to present your work with clarity and integrity.

6. **Reflective Critique**

You need to show that you are critically evaluating your work. This requires you to show that you are bringing an appropriate breadth of evidence to your critique (that is, drawing upon your findings in relation to the literature. You will need to show how your evaluation has improved the quality of student learning. You may also want to reflect how this feeds into future teaching and learning developments (that is, what has or will change?)

7. **Going Public**

This is one of the goals for after the lifetime of your project. In order for others to benefit from your project into the use of technology in teaching and learning, there needs to be an 'externality' component to what you do. The best way of achieving this is to subject it to some kind of peer review process. This may take the form of a conference paper or journal paper. This will strengthen your scholarly work in teaching and learning and also help develop the field by providing more research into what works with technology and in what context.

References

- Glassick, C. E. (2000). Reconsidering scholarship. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, 6(1), 4–9.
- Price, L., & Kirkwood, A. T. (2011). *Enhancing Professional Learning and Teaching through Technology: A Synthesis of Evidence-based Practice among Teachers in Higher Education*. Enhancing Learning and Teaching. York: Higher Education Academy.

Linda Price

22nd November 2011