



Centre for Learning & Teaching in Art & Design, University of the Arts London

Monthly blog-based learning activities for the Teaching Development Project unit
(core unit on Postgraduate Certificate in Learning & Teaching)

October-November: Identify a problem and construct a research question

Task: By mid-November, post up a new entry, or entries, to your blog that answer(s) the following questions:

- **What problem, challenge or issue have you identified within your teaching practice that will form the basis for your Teaching Development Project?**
- **What, briefly, do you plan to do to address this problem?**
- **Can you construct a research question that includes both the problem and the planned intervention?**
- **How will you evaluate your project; i.e. what will you do in order to determine whether your intervention has addressed the problem? What variables or indicators will you measure? How will you measure them?**

It is absolutely fine to change your mind about either the problem or the planned intervention at some point in the future. If you have no idea at *this* point what problem you want to address, OR what you might do as an intervention, you could try the following:

- Ask your learning group & your colleagues
- Have a teaching observation
- Read some general Learning & Teaching literature
- Book a tutorial with your tutor
- Surf the web
- Choose a problem with a more obvious solution!

Do not worry about whether your intervention is the *best* way of addressing the problem you've identified, or whether it will solve the problem completely. Although you will need to show your rationale for the methods used, the Teaching Development Project is intended as a starting point for an ongoing process of development.

We recommend you use 'tags' or 'categories' to distinguish between blog posts relevant to the different units you are studying on the CPD Framework. See the myblog.arts video guides for more information.

Example:

<http://paulfinn.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2011/12/23/identify-a-problem-and-construct-a-research-question/>

November-December: Plan and draft a literature review

Task: by mid-December, post a new entry to your blog identifying the main research topics that are relevant to your project. Map out the arguments that stem from each topic. For each argument, try to identify the following:

1. **Claim or assertion** (the point you want to make, the idea you believe is true)
2. **Evidence** (points taken from the literature that support the point you want to make)
3. **Significance** (explain how the evidence supports your claim and why this is important)

You might find it easier to present the topics and arguments initially as a table or a concept map, rather than writing them out in full.

Once you've completed this initial task and shared it on your blog, we recommend you start working your ideas into a draft literature review as soon as you feel able to. Remember the point of the literature review is to present an argument that will make your intervention look like the **ideal response** to your learning and teaching problem. You should also include within your literature review a brief rationale for the methodology used (Action Research).

Example:

<http://valeriemcbride.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2012/01/01/teaching-development-project/>

<http://juliedennison.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2011/12/30/project-2-draft-literature-review-for-teaching-development-project/>

December-January: Share and refine your project proposal

[Project proposal brief](#) (53.5 Kb)

[Project Proposal self-assessment form](#) (42.744 Kb)

Task: By 5pm on January 9th you need to have posted up your project proposal to your blog; either as a 1000-word post, a separate page or an attached document, or by embedding an appropriate media file (video or audio).

See the project proposal assignment brief for full details and guidance on completing this assignment: Assessment > Assessment Element 2: Project Proposal.

Do not forget to include a self-assessment of your proposal assignment; if you are simply posting your proposal onto the blog you will need to either attach this to the post or e-mail it to your tutor.

In addition to providing feedback on your group members' proposals through their blogs, you could also post up a summary of the feedback received during the workshops on January 11th/13th. The quality of feedback exchanged during these sessions is often very rich and we would encourage you to record it in audio or video format using whatever device you have to hand.

During this time period many of you will have further actions related to your literature review or the intervention itself; make sure you record these on your blog and keep a lookout for others' research journals too.

Example:

<http://klausblog.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2011/11/15/teaching-development-project-proposal-draft/>
<http://emmacritchley.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2012/01/09/tdp-project-proposal/>

January-February: Reflect on progress and outcomes

Task: During January and February many of you will be actually carrying out your interventions and gathering data. Here are some ideas for how you might use your blog during this period:

- **Post up a summary of the feedback you received** during the workshops on January 11th/13th, and from your tutor on your written proposal. What was useful about the feedback? What was less useful? What will you do in response to the feedback received?
- Use your blog as a journal to **document your intervention**; note down immediate observations or thoughts about how it is going.
- **Make connections** between your project and the reading you are doing for the L&TAD unit.
- Draft the initial sections of your **project report** and invite other participants, colleagues and tutors to feed back.

Examples:

<http://jospencer.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2012/03/19/good-news-for-my-tdp-project/>
<http://guypgcert.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2012/02/26/tdp-project-progress/>

February-March: Evaluate your project

Task: This is the final month of your teaching development project and you should be aiming to pull together the sections of your report into a draft for your tutor to feed back on. You might want to use your blog for the following:

- Continue to document your intervention and the data collection process
- Reflect on the process of evaluating your project; do you have the information you need to answer your initial question? If not, what else do you need? How will you get it?
- Continue to draft the sections of your project report.

Please do not post up any data that identifies your students (esp. video clips) unless you have their fully informed consent!

Examples:

<http://annemariecreamer.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2012/04/15/tdp-results-the-event-was-succesful-but-throws-my-research-question-into-some-doubt-productively/>
<http://valeriemcbride.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2012/04/19/teaching-development-project-2/>

Lindsay Jordan (@lindsayjordan)
September 2011

www.lindsayjordan.edublogs.org