**Teaching the Core Values**

The Core Values are at the heart of what we do. Whether they are directly or indirectly influencing our teaching, are constantly shaping how we construct our lessons and how we guide our students.

Since they are so important to what we and our students do, we need to make them a part of our curriculum. This is especially true because for the Final Portfolio, our students need to use them when they write their Reflective Statement. Here are some suggestions as to how to effectively and responsibly integrate them into your class.

**Note: Integrating the Core Values into your class is a good thing, but resist the temptation to over-refer to them. Mentioning them for every class or activity will most likely be counter-productive**.

1. Introduce them early in the semester. Go over them with your class, and explain what each one means and how it applies to the course.
   1. Once you go over them together, periodically mention them as you go through the material for the course. Connect course work back to the Values, mentioning how they can be seen in the work you are doing.
2. Include Core Value Outcomes for each assignment that you give. Use the ones that connect best with the assignment.
   1. These outcomes can be found on the Instructor Support Site. Each class (CCI, ICCI, etc.) has a link called ‘Core Values and Outcomes’ that lists the outcomes.
   2. When you introduce the assignment in class, discuss how the assignment reflects these outcomes.
3. Give in-class work (group work, independent work) that links Core Values to work over the semester.
   1. Especially useful near the end of the semester.

**Journal Writing**

One of the best ways to get students engaged in the Core Values is through assigning them journal writing activities.

1. Unlike in-class presentations or discussions, journals put the burden of connecting the core values to their own work on the students. This is very important because they ultimately will have to do this for their Reflective Statements.
2. The best journal assignments are relatively focused. They deal with one or two elements of one Value. Avoid broad assignments, such as ‘How does my work on X assignment reflect Core Value 1?’
3. Spread the assignments out over the semester. Have the students write them for different assignments, or even for different stages of each assignment.

Teaching Circle Reflection Questions

Core Value 1

* How has the process of writing your paper been a social one? How have you contributed to the 'social process' of your classmates?

Example – In the Paths of Education Project that we have been working on, you have been

asked to participate in several group activities for brainstorming and peer review.

Write about how these interactions with your peers have affected your project.

During these activities, how did you contribute to the projects of your

groupmates?

Core Value 1

* How did the recursive process of drafting allow you to develop as a writer because it helped you track your progress? How did the peer review process strengthen your writing? How did the group presentations contribute to collaborative learning and social writing?

Example - how did the social, interactive process of working on your gender studies

group project, which required exploration, discovery, conceptualization and

development of your ideas with your teammates, better prepare you to write

your essay about gender equality?

Core Value 2

* How has reading the sources and writing about them for the critical engagement affected your own beliefs or ideas on the topic?

Example – Select one source from the list of sources for our project on human development.

In detail discuss what the article’s main point is, and show where in the article

you see this point. How does this point relate to you position regarding what

shapes who we become?

Core Value 2

* How did the **close reading** of the source help you choose the quotes to use in your essay? How did the close reading of the source help you write transitions that framed or sandwiched the quote within your own words?
* How did the critical engagement question (from the critical engagement assignment sheet) about the point in the source you disagree with help you become a more **critical**, skeptical reader? How did today’s debate help you understand that texts respond to other texts, and your writing enters an ongoing academic conversation about a topic?

Example – How did your close reading of Peter Elbow help you to choose quotes for you

to use in your essay? How did your reading help you to establish the ‘frame’

around your quotes?

Core Value 3

* What is the purpose of your essay? How successful have you been in achieving that purpose?

Core Value 3

* How did learning about the publication help you better understand the **context** of the article?

Example - How did learning biographical details about Malcolm X’s life affect your

understanding of the **purpose** of “Saved,” which Malcolm X told to Alex

Haley when he knew he was likely to be assassinated?

- How did learning that Will Ellsworth-Jones published “The

Story Behind Banksy” in *Smithsonian* magazine and our conversation about

the importance of the Smithsonian museums in the United States affect your

understanding about how Banksy is regarded in the American art world?

Core Value 4

* What types of sources have you used for this paper? Has their nature affected or shaped the way you used them?

Core Value 4

* How did your essay become more exploratory once you added quotes, summary, and analysis from the sources? How does your writing become more credible when you use reliable sources?

Core Value 5

* Why is fairly representing your sources important? How effectively have you represented them?

Example – Having completed your essay about human development, look over your draft

And identify places where you have referred to specific sources. Have you

fairly and accurately represented the beliefs of the author of the source?

Then, briefly discuss why you feel it is important to be fair when including

sources in your writing.

Core Value 5

* How did you ensure that your writing engaged with the ideas of others without plagiarizing their words? What strategies have you learned that help you maintain academic integrity in your writing? What are the ethical responsibilities of publishing your work or ideas online?

Example - How did compiling the annotated bibliography help you understand the

concepts of **academic integrity**, accurately representing others’ ideas, **and**

**acknowledging sources** appropriately?