Date: February 2023

Theme: Storytelling for Teaching and Learning

Tip 1: **Storytelling for knowledge sharing**

Storytelling always has been a valuable method of sharing knowledge of history, culture, and family in many Indigenous communities. Using a narrative approach to share content knowledge can increase student engagement by helping students connect personally with the content and promote the retention of knowledge. Here are three ways instructors can use storytelling in their courses:

- When working with data in your discipline, create narratives that explain and elaborate on the data. The narrative should include visualizations (such as graphs, diagrams, and photos) to complement the narrative and the data (Cote, 2021).
- Tell stories from your personal and professional experiences that illustrate disciplinary concepts and how you navigated the profession (Green, 2004).
- Instructors can "create opportunities for students to enter into the stories of other people; this may happen through case studies or simulations, where the goal of that experience is to invite students into the challenges of another person" (Bartelheim, 2016, How Storytelling Fosters Learning).

Tip 2: Storytelling for integrative learning

Making connections to personal experience is an element of integrative learning that promotes student engagement in content. Students can identify with and internalize the content when given the opportunity to connect learning to their personal lives. In addition, this process helps the instructor learn more about the students and build relationships with them. For example, in MC Professor Sara Ducey's Nutrition 101, students were asked to write an essay "that tells the story of this one special food and your relationship with it." Students are asked to take the reader "On a journey, where they will learn about your special food. In your essay, you will name and describe the food, including the basics of preparation, and weave the story of how this food contributes to your identity and/or your place in your family's culture."

In addition, MC has a robust Digital Storytelling Initiative, which started in 2018. Digital storytelling helps students develop and practice technology, project management, and communication skills that could prove essential beyond the classroom. The initiative includes a Community of Practice, internships, and semi-annual showcases of students' digital stories. To learn how your course can join the digital storytelling initiative, check out: Digital Storytelling at MC | Montgomery College, Maryland. In addition, MC will co-host the 11th Annual International Digital Storytelling Conference in June 2023, along with UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and the Smithsonian Institute.

Sources:

Bartelheim, E. (2016). Storytelling in the classroom. Ohio University Instructional Innovation. Retrieved from https://www.ohio.edu/instructional-innovation/stories/showcase/storytelling-classroom

Cote, C. (2021 November 23). Data storytelling: How to effectively tell a story with data. Harvard Business School Online. Retrieved from https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/data-storytelling

Green, M. (2004). Storytelling is teaching. Association for Psychological Science. Retrieved from: https://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/storytelling-in-teaching

More Info on Teaching Tips
"Teaching Tips of the Month" began as a project of the Program for Active Learning in STEM (PALS) andTeaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM (TIDES) grants. Many thanks to Ray Gonzales and Alla Webb, who served as Principal Investigators of the TIDES grants. You can view archived Teaching Tips of the Month on The Hub. We welcome feedback and invite you to submit ideas for this publication to Angela Lanier, angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu

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