



## **Pragmatic Adaptation to Make Any Learning Objective More Meaningful**

### **Week One Discovering What Really Matters Exercise**

- Start Your Class (whether face-to-face or online) with a discovery activity.
- Face-to-face: Put students in 4 or 5 small groups depending on the size of the class with at least 3 students in each group. Ask the groups to brainstorm what important issues they are concerned about – can be at the University, local community, state, national, or global level (your choice).
- After groups brainstorm for a few minutes, ask them to decide as a group what are the top 3 issues and list those on a dry erase board. Instructor should take a photo or capture the lists in some other way before the class ends. Then, use the top ideas to adjust assignments.
- Online: Add a discussion post (assigning even a few points will help with engagement – could be extra credit points). Ask each student to list the top 3-5 issues they are concerned about as above. Synthesize the top ideas to adjust assignments.

### **Reflective Journaling**

- Face-to-Face: Physical or electronic journals can be used by students who spend the last 10 minutes of class each week writing about how that week's topic and unit or course learning objectives align with one of the meaningful ideas from the week 1 brainstorming.
- Online: Add a discussion board post for each week in which students share their "journal" entry and comment to add value to each other's posts.

### **Turn an Assignment into a Meaningful Project**

- Based on the topics that are most meaningful, adjust at least 1 assignment per unit by continuing to use the course or unit learning outcomes; however, adapting the instructions to link to the meaningful ideas. Let students know you adjusted to match the ideas they said mattered to them.
- For a larger group or final project, have the student or group select one of the top ideas from the week 1 brainstorming session, research how the course concepts can be applied to the issue or problem of concern, and write a report or present their research to the class.

### **Turn a Discussion into a Meaningful Activity**

- Face-to-Face: Add an in-class full class or group discussion (depending on size of class) for each unit that brings in the meaningful ideas from week one. Ask students to discuss how the unit or course learning objectives could be used to explore, understand, analyze, solve, or create meaning surrounding the selected idea.
- Online: Add a discussion board posting in which students are asked to post and respond to classmate posts regarding how the unit or course learning objectives could be used to explore, understand, analyze, solve, or create meaning surrounding the selected idea.