

Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW)



Robin
Bright

Lisa
Doolittle

Sheila
McManus

Phil
Jones

Ute
Wieden-Kothe

Objective

The Instructional Skills workshop (ISW), an intensive 4-day event, is a laboratory approach to the improvement of teaching and learning.

Approach

The ISW is:

- based on peer feedback.
- grounded in active, experiential learning
- based on principles of learning-centred instruction.

What was your biggest misconception about ISW?

From the ISW material I read before the training, I thought we were going to get squished into a box of someone else's making, something which I have a strong aversion to.

My experience was not that at all and I found quite a lot of freedom to explore ideas and approaches to teaching.



(Phil Jones)

Who participates?

5-6 participants:

your colleagues from the UofL
various disciplines

2 trained facilitators (colleagues)

The ISW is a collaboration between
facilitators and participants!

Why did you enjoy the ISW?

... sharing this work with 4 colleagues - all of us facing the same challenges even though we were from wildly different disciplines - provided an incredibly rich array of possibilities, problems to solve and lots of laughs. These colleagues have remained valued resource people, and new friends.

(Lisa Doolittle)



Mini-Lectures

- 10 min
- Three delivered by each participants
- Each participant experiences instructor and learner perspective

What was your biggest misconception about ISW?



I read the booklet ahead of time and thought that the ISW and its "ten minute lesson" model was going to be really simplistic and not helpful at all for teaching more abstract/complicated material or critical thinking skills.

(Sheila McManus)

Peer Feedback

1. Immediate feedback from facilitator (7 min)
2. Discussion with peers (20 min)
3. Written feedback from peers
4. Video of own mini-lecture for reflection

What was your most memorable moment during the ISW?

Most of all the respect and depth of thought shown in all the feedback I received on my own teaching, from colleagues and from the facilitators, has made me use different teaching 'muscles' in my planning, in the classroom, and in evaluating students.

(Lisa Doolittle)



What was your most memorable moment during the ISW?

Imagine doing (the ISW) with other passionate, committed teachers from totally different disciplines, each of whom will teach you more than you could have expected.



(Sheila McManus)

Outcome

- 10 min Mini-lecture
- >30 min feedback!!!
- and new wonderful friends
- and ...

“Negatives”



This was truly teacher boot camp -
I had never prepared so much for
so few minutes of teaching.

(Lisa Doolittle)

“Negatives”



biggest caution: you will raise your bar and quite likely then make yourself a little crazier than usual about your teaching for the next term or two...

(Sheila McManus)

“Positives”



(The ISW) has really transformed how I think about teaching and learning, and the way I structure and deliver my courses.

(Phil Jones)

“Positives”



I was able to refocus my own work on the importance of student learning in teaching. Teaching has become even more about what the students learn and less about me this past year.

(Robin Bright)

Interested?

- Next Instructional Skills Workshop offered in August at the University
- Contact Jill at the Teaching Centre if you are interested in participating

Why should you try it?

(The ISW) will re-energize
your teaching, and
transform your approach
to teaching and learning.

(Phil Jones)



Why should you try it?

I would recommend this workshop to others because you will make friends with amazing colleagues you just met and you will be able to share your teaching strengths and challenges in the most supportive and fun environment possible.

(Robin Bright)



Thank you!

Questions?
Talk to any of us!



Robin
Bright

Lisa
Doolittle

Sheila
McManus

Phil
Jones

Ute
Wieden-Kothe