



## Friday @ the Center: November 3, 2006

### Teaching Tip: Preliminary Feedback

A great pedagogical tool is a simple mid-course evaluation. Take five minutes at the end of class and ask your students to write a brief response to two questions: 1) What has helped you learn so far in this course? 2) What would help you learn more? Read through the answers and take five minutes during your next class period to comment on and address the responses. Student input may help you make some midterm adjustments to the design of your course, if necessary. And research demonstrates that if you take the time to do this exercise and provide the class with some feedback on their comments—showing that you have listened to them (even if you disagree)—your final course evaluations improve. This would also be a good time to remind students of the importance of the final course evaluation (with more reminders to follow when the on-line evaluation forms go live).

### On-Line Evaluations

Speaking of which . . . this quarter you will be able to add three of your own open-ended questions to the evaluation for your course. Instructors will have access to their on-line forms beginning November 13. You will get an email notifying you of this. Then you will be able to check which form has been assigned to your course, choose a different form if you wish, and add up to three questions. For more on the on-line evaluation process, including tips from your colleagues on how to encourage student response, see <http://www.spu.edu/depts/aao/bannercourseevaluation2.asp>.

### Teaching and Learning Journals

Are you interested in working on the scholarship of teaching and learning? Do you want to learn more about recent research into teaching in your discipline? Many peer-reviewed journals specialize in this kind of work, although you may not have run across them in graduate school. Regularly reading one or two of these journals will help you continue to develop as a teacher and may also give you some ideas for a new research project. <http://pod.nku.edu/sotldisc.asp> contains a list of discipline-specific teaching and learning journals, including submission information. Take a look at what's out there in your field!

### The November Grant Advisor

The November edition of *The Grant Advisor* is now available and can be accessed through on-campus computers at <http://www.grantadvisor.com/tgaplus/>. This monthly newsletter contains 20-25 full program reviews and over 300 listings of grant and fellowship programs, organized into eight academic divisions (fine arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, education, international, health, and other). Do remember that if you are applying for an external grant, you

need to follow the procedure outlined at <http://advance.spu.edu/corporations/externalgrants.asp>.  
Advanced planning is crucial.

Singing in the rain,



*Susan*

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