Engaging with a Scholarly Colloquium

This activity offers one example of how you might document your reflection or engagement with scholarly literature about teaching and learning. You could try a similar approach with other articles, papers, books or chapters, whether these are addressed to your own discipline, or to the broader field of higher education scholarship. You may of course take your own approach to engaging with such literature.

Instructions

1) In the article “What Does it Mean to be an Academic”, the authors discuss some central issues in academic life. As you read, you might consider how your own beliefs and experiences (particularly to do with teaching and learning) relate to the discussion.


   An electronic copy of the article is available from the library at the following link:

   http://opac.library.usyd.edu.au/record=b2851091~S1

2) Philosophy

   a. Provide a snapshot of your teaching philosophy by providing a one-sentence response to the following question: what is teaching and learning to you?

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   b. In what ways does your teaching philosophy relate to the central concerns in the article “What Does it Mean to be an Academic”? For example, your teaching philosophy might differ greatly from the views provided (why might this be?), or you might word or explain your ideas differently (could your philosophy be rephrased to more clearly relate to the themes in the article? What would the effect of this rephrasing be?).

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Prepared by Ben Miller for the Faculty of Arts Teaching and Learning Committee,
The University of Sydney, June 2010
3) Experience

   a. List two examples from your teaching that seem relevant to the discussion in “What Does it Mean to be an Academic”:

      i. __________________________________________________________________________________ 

      ii. __________________________________________________________________________________

   b. In what ways are the examples relevant to the discussion in the article? For example, what new ways have you found to interrogate your experiences; or what differences do your experiences highlight between your approach to teaching and learning and approaches suggested in the article?

      i. __________________________________________________________________________________ 

      ii. __________________________________________________________________________________
4) Draft one or two sentences or make some notes that might help you prepare a personal position statement or response to “What Does it Mean to be an Academic”.

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5) How might your engagement with the article have an impact on your approach to teaching and learning? For example, you might feel more secure in your teaching beliefs after engaging with other opinions or you might have noticed blind spots in your own approach; alternatively, you may have thought of a new teaching technique or a technique to avoid.

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