

USING TEAM-BASED LEARNING TO LAUNCH TRASFORMATIVE LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

A ROUNDTABLE PRESENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Team-based learning (TBL) is a structured form of small-group learning that emphasizes student preparation out of class and application of knowledge in class. According to the Team Based Collaborative at <http://www.teambasedlearning.org/>, students are organized strategically into diverse teams of 5-7 students that work together throughout the class. Team-Based Learning is an evidence based collaborative learning teaching strategy designed around units of instruction, known as “modules,” that are taught in a three-step cycle: preparation, in-class readiness assurance testing, and application-focused exercise. A class typically includes one module (Michaelson, et al., 2009). In my community nutrition course about 40% of the content is flipped, which has been found to be a successful way to utilize this approach. TBL is utilized by students to go through the steps of doing a needs assessment and making a recommendation for a community organization. Students must complete readings ahead of class session, they are "tested" over the material individually, clarifications are made through class discussion and during class we work through the step by step process of doing a needs assessment. Each group chooses a different community organization which enriches the discussion between groups and provides for a wide learning experience for all members of the class. The class work culminates with each team writing an executive summary. They utilize this in choosing and completing their individual service learning projects. I believe this to be a much better approach than the traditional lecture format where the students would do the assignment(s) for homework. This method has proven to be more successful as evidenced by the quality of the finished products and brings about more participation and better class discussion. Although, there is some pushback from students at first, it has been found that students do have a more positive experience in the learning process. There are many ways in which this teaching approach can be utilized.

SELECT REFERENCES

Michaelson, L., Sweet, M., & Parmalee, D. (2009) *Team-Based Learning: Small group learning's next big step*. Josey-Bass Publishing.

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