

CTL Capstone Project
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Minute Papers

This year I have taught Research and Writing. It is a challenging course for the students and a challenging course to teach. It involves learning research methodologies as well as learning to write at high levels. After teaching it in the Fall, I decided that I wanted to use this course for my capstone. I wanted to provide students an opportunity to reflect on their learning throughout the term knowing that this could be very valuable.

My Project:

Used **Minute Papers** for CSP 675, Research and Writing.
I wanted a way to evaluate student learning week by week.
I also wanted a way to stay connected with students in a challenging course.

My observations:

As weeks went by the papers became more content focused.
Able to adjust teaching style by their learning.
Changed one weeks content to meet their needs as a result of the papers.
Students are very open in the papers.
Used both for questions, but also to reflect on what they learned.
Students often reflect on the last part of the day's material, I changed the order of my content.
Helpful in knowing what they learned.
Also helped me feel good about what I was teaching.

Student observations: I asked students to reflect on the process

Students liked having to think about what they learned.
They liked being asked their opinion.
They liked being able to "send me home with something".
They enjoyed having the opportunity to shape the course.
They felt good about having to think about the content.
They did struggle at the end of the class to write more.
Once in a while they had "nothing to say".

Tips for using them:

Process the minute papers in the next class (maybe not always, but enough so they know you read them).
Do them at the end of class most of the time, but try one in the middle.
Focus on what they learned, rather than what is still confusing, this helps them stay positive, especially in difficult courses.
Only do this if you really want to know.
Be willing to make changes.