**A little about me:**

* Writing and Rhetoric instructor at FIU (nine years) – f2f, hybrid, fully on-line
* Interdisciplinary experience – PhD in International Relations (2013)
* Writing Across the Curriculum Consultant for three years

**Defining low stakes assignments** – small (typically 100-250 words) assignments that differ from traditional assessment assignments in size and grading.

**The benefits of assigning low-stake assignments in on-line classes**

Improves student retention through:

* Maintaining engagement throughout the course
* Increasing social interaction
* Enhancing intrinsic motivation
* Improving student’s meta-cognition
* Helping students develop and use more effective strategies for success

Improves faculty experience through:

* Greater student retention
* Increased student satisfaction
* Enhanced ability to identify and resolve problems with the course or with individual students
* Better student attainment of learning goals

**A little about you** – our discussion will be tailored to fit the knowledge and objectives of participants:

* Do you assign any low stakes assignments in your classes?
* How many? How often? What are your objectives?
* What do you like or dislike about this type of assignment?
* Which of the previously mentioned benefits are you most interested in obtaining?

**Group discussion –** based on participant experience and objectives, we will discuss several strategies for achieving desired benefits through adding different types of low stakes assignments to on-line courses. Some possibilities:

* Frequent assignments
* Collaborative assignments
* Engaging assignments
* Communication assignments
* Meta-cognitive assignments
* Critical thinking assignments
* Critical reading assignments
* Dialectical thinking assignments
* Course feedback assignments
* Pre-writing assignments
* Drafting assignments
* Peer-feedback assignments

**Considering your objectives – individuals will take a few moments to free-write answers to the following questions:**

* Which of these strategies might you apply to your on-line classes?
* How would you design a low stakes assignment to help you achieve your goals? What would the prompt look like? When in the course would you assign it? What LMS tool would you use?
* What would you hope to gain from adding this assignment to your course?
* What, if any, questions or concerns do you have about making this change?

**Wrap-up –** Depending on time and preferences, we will discuss individual ideas for low stake assignments and/or discuss additional strategies for creating effective low stake assignments

Additional strategies for assigning effective low stakes assignments

* Be consistent
* Be transparent
* Keep the grading simple
* Write like a lawyer

Preventing problems

* Don’t create too much work for yourself
* Have a clear and manageable feedback policy
* Build in flexibility