

Best Practices in Library Instruction  
CARLI Instruction Forum  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Heartland Community College

**Breakout Session Discussion Prompts**

Beth Woodard provided some starting points for further discussion on improving learning. You may use the following questions to fuel your table discussion.

1. Creating environments that facilitate learning
  - What techniques do you use in your classroom?
  - What has worked well?
  - Is there anything that hasn't been successful?
2. Addressing different learning styles with a variety of teaching strategies
  - What kinds of learning styles do you see in your classroom?
  - Have you noticed any preferences in the learning styles of students in the last few years? What have you done to accommodate these changes?
  - How do you handle classrooms that have students with very different learning styles?
3. Helping students make connections from prior learning and experiences to new learning
  - Learning and library instruction doesn't happen in a vacuum - how do you connect this to other learning experiences?
  - What kinds of prior learning might be helpful in library instruction?
  - How do you help students make connections from what you are currently teaching in the classroom and their future learning?
4. Evaluating learning through a variety of authentic Assessments
  - Can you, or have you, created any authentic assessments for library instruction?
  - How can collaboration with faculty contribute authentic assessment of learning?
5. Constructing knowledge through higher level thinking processes
  - Within the context of library instruction how do you encourage the creation of knowledge through synthesis, analysis and evaluation? (the higher level processes according to Bloom's Taxonomy)
  - What specific methods do you use to challenge students to :
    - Show relationships and predict and draw conclusions
    - Use old ideas to create new ones and integrate knowledge from several areas
    - Make choices based on reasoned arguments and compare and discriminate between ideas
6. Collaborative learning is an integral part of the classroom
  - Millennial students tend to turn to each other when they have questions. What can we do to promote this kind of learning?
  - What strategies do you use in the library instruction classroom to encourage collaborative learning?
7. Bridging the gap between all learners
  - What strategies do you use to teach students in classroom with varying skill levels, strengths, and levels of preparedness?