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Collaborative Consultations: Guiding First-Year Students' Research using a Writer's Workshop Model

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Collaborative Consultations:

Guiding First-Year Students' Research using a Writer's Workshop Model

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Define collaborative consultations through the lens of the writer's workshop.
2. Use assessment data to guide future development and evolution of collaborative consultations.
3. Apply collaborative consultation strategies to different institutional settings.

BACKGROUND OF PROJECT

- Short, individual consultation with each student, inspired the writers workshop model
- Over the course of 3 class periods

WHAT IS A WRITERS WORKSHOP?

- Student-centered framework that focuses on coaching and guiding the student in their writing

WHAT IS A REFERENCE INTERVIEW?

- Patron-centered interaction between patron and librarian that guides the patron to the most appropriate resources to support their information needs

COMBINED TOGETHER...COLLABORATIVE CONSULTATIONS!



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FORMAT AT BUTLER UNIVERSITY

- Project: Letter to the editor, responding to an opinion piece
- Sign-up sheet for each class
- 6-minute individual consultation with student, instructor, and librarian
- Review selected topic with instructor and learn about appropriate resources with the librarian

ASSESSMENT OF CONSULTATIONS

- 28 respondents from 2 sections
- Baseline assessment indicated that most students hadn't worked with either an instructor nor a librarian for previous research projects
 - 64% had not worked with an instructor
 - 67% had not worked with a librarian
 - Limitation: were these responses based on their college experience alone?

96%

Learned something new from the collaborative consultation sessions

100%

Strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that they are **more confident in their research abilities** thanks to the collaborative consultations sessions

100%

Strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that they are **more aware of how librarians can support their research** thanks to the collaborative consultations sessions

82%

Would like to have more opportunities to collaborate with both instructor and librarian on future projects

89%

Would seek out future research support from a librarian thanks to the collaborative consultations sessions

WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE SESSIONS?

WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE SESSIONS?

“Very open-ended and student led”

“I was able to get recommendations on specific things and keywords”

“I learned a lot of things about the butler library website”

“I had people to guide me in the right direction”

“You showed me not only the best places to go, but also helped me understand why it was the best place”

“They tailored everything to your needs“

“I enjoyed being able to [get] feedback from a librarian”

WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT THE SESSIONS?

WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT THE SESSIONS?

“A little short”

“The lack of structure”

“A little redundant”

“I get nervous talking to teachers one-on-one”

“One more individual conference session”

APPLY TO DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS

- Unique supplement to one-shot sessions
- Collaborate with instructor to identify appropriate assignment or project
- Create sign-up sheet for individual sessions
- Get to know your institution's databases

DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Preview of the research project topics
- Offer longer individual sessions
 - Scheduling issues?
- Offer an office hour-style session for follow up research support
- Survey a future class but include a control group for comparison
- Incorporate DEI
- How does this fit into current pedagogical practices?

THANK YOU!



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