CADE 2015 Presentation

The Instructional Sequence in Action: Windows into Accelerated English

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This is a window into the second unit of my accelerated preparation for college writing class, where students write their first out-of-class essay. The key inquiry question for this unit is “What does ‘I love you’ mean?”

To answer this question, we read three pieces:

* Barbara L. Fredrickson’s “What Love Is,” a chapter from her book *Love 2.0: How Our Supreme Emotion Effects Everything We Feel, Think, Do, and Become*
* Sultan Tarlaci’s “The Brain in Love,” an article from the academic journal *NeuroQuantology*
* Robert J. Sternberg’s “Searching for Love,” an article from the *The Psychologist*, a publication of the British Psychological Society

The out-of-class essay they are writing asks them to do the following:

In a complete academic essay, explain one concept of love from either Fredrickson, Tarlaci, or Sternberg, and apply it to a specific love relationship in your life. Explain how your relationship illustrates the concept of love from the readings you’ve chosen.

Here’s the entire instructional sequence for this unit from the past spring 2015 semester:

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| Date | In-Class Activity | Homework Due at the Next Class |
| Monday, 2/2 | Continue prewriting and **write Essay #1 in class** | Read Unit 2 header on page 17, Essay #2 assignment on page 19, and Fredrickson’s “What Love Is” on pages 21-23. To Talking to the Text on Fredrickson’s article as you read. When you do TttT, always, shoot for at least three comments per page. |
| Wednesday, 2/4 | Discuss Fredrickson and preview Tarlaci’s “The Brain in Love: Has Neuroscience Stolen the Secret of Love?” | Read Tarlaci’s “The Brain in Love: Has Neuroscience Stolen the Secret of Love?” on pages 35-43 and do Talking to the Text; review Fredrickson to prepare for reading quiz. |
| Monday, 2/9 | Reading quiz on Fredrickson; discuss Tarlaci; preview of Sternberg’s “Searching for Love” | Read Sternberg’s “Searching for Love” on pages 45-18 and do Talking to the Text; review Tarlaci to prepare for reading quiz. |
| Wednesday, 2/11 | Reading quiz on Tarlaci; discuss Sternberg | Prewrite for Essay #2 using the handout; for help, use *Troubleshooting Guide for Writers* (*TSG*) “Myths about Writing” (pages 1-18) and chapters 1, 2, and 3. Review Sternberg to prepare for reading quiz. |
| Monday, 2/16 | **Presidents’ Day Holiday: NO CLASS** |
| Wednesday, 2/18 | Reading quiz on Sternberg; Essay #2 prewriting and drafting activities | Write a rough draft of Essay #2. Come to the next class with a two page, typed and double spaced copy of Essay #2. Bring a second copy for extra credit. For help, use Part II of *TSG* on pages 41-66. |
| Monday, 2/23 | Peer response for Essay #2; synthesis quiz for Unit 2 | Continue to revise and edit Essay #2. The final draft is due Wednesday, 2/25. |
| Wednesday, 2/25 | Final draft of Essay #2 due |  |

This is the synthesis quiz for this unit:

1. Read this scenario:

Rob and Angie have been dating for a year and a half, and things used to be great. However, they’ve been having a hard time lately. Rob thinks they should move in together, but Angie says she isn’t ready for that much commitment yet, which hurts Rob’s feelings and makes him worry that she isn’t as into the relationship as he is. He is suspicious that she wants to date other people and sometimes finds himself checking her phone when she’s out of the room to see who she’s texting with; he doesn’t feel bad about it because he thinks if two people really care about one another, they have the right to check up on each other. He feels anxiety when he thinks about losing her. For her part, Angie is frustrated because she thinks Rob overthinks everything. She thinks love should be fun and you shouldn’t have to work too hard at it. Her mother also always told her, “You want to keep some things a mystery. That will keep your man interested in you,” so she doesn’t want to share all of her feelings with Rob. She wants him to stay interested. As a result of this belief and his questions about moving in together, she’s been avoiding him, and they haven’t been spending as much time together as they used to. They still text every day, but they only see each other about once a week face-to-face.

2. On a separate piece of paper, write a paragraph that explains what the three authors we’ve read would say about this situation. **How would Fredrickson, Tarlaci, and Sternbergexplain the problems that Rob and Angie are having?**

If you’re feeling stuck, you may use these first sentences: “In the scenario, Rob and Angie are having serious relationship problems. Different experts would explain their problems in different ways.”