Call for Participants: Spring 2019 Article Discussion Group
“Using Writing and Communication Activities to Promote Better Learning”

Are you already using writing, presentations, classroom discussions, or other communication activities in your class? Do you wish you were using more of these activities, or using them better? Are you interested in the relationship between language and learning? Then you should consider applying for this spring learning group! (APPLY HERE by Dec. 21, 2018)

Why? Past participants have found a similar discussion group quite valuable. Here’s a sample of feedback from participants in the Spring 2017 discussion group:

“This was a great experience for me.”
“I really enjoyed this discussion group. Thanks for organizing!”
“I found the series very effective and nicely structured.”
“Rick’s reflections from his own teaching and his sincere efforts to improve his teaching of writing were the most interesting and helpful to me.”

Who? Anyone who will be teaching during the Spring 2019 semester is invited to apply. Professors, lecturers, graduate teaching assistants, and adjunct instructors are all welcome to apply. Note that the topic for this spring will be on using writing/communication to improve learning. Since many communication activities that improve learning are often intentionally messy and informal, this discussion will not focus on strategies to improve students’ formal communication skills.

What? This Spring 2019 faculty learning community (of 6 to 10 participants) will meet five times throughout the semester for informal, facilitated discussion of four or five article-/chapter-length readings related to the use of low-stakes writing assignments, in-class discussion, and other activities to promote student learning. *Readings may include:* “Informal, Exploratory Writing Activities,” “How Discussion Helps Learning and Enlivens Classrooms,” “Writing to Learn by Learning to Write in the Disciplines,” “Mastering Online Discussion Board Facilitation,” “Language across the Curriculum,” and “Responding to Research Writing.”

When and where? The Spring 2019 article discussion group will meet at 12:30pm – 2pm on the following Tuesdays: Feb. 5, Feb. 19, March 5, March 26, and April 16. Location TBD.

What’s in it for you? Most tangibly, participants who attend at least four of the five sessions will receive a stipend of $500. Less tangibly but more importantly, participants should go away from this discussion group with a stronger value for and understanding of the relationship between language and student learning in all disciplines. Participants should also go away with a set of assignment ideas to apply or adapt for their own teaching settings.
To apply: Complete the brief application form HERE by Dec. 21, 2018. Applications will be reviewed in early 2019 and successful applicants will be notified by mid-January 2019. Questions about the discussion group can be sent to Rick Fisher, Director of Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) at rick.fisher@uwyo.edu.