

A Visual Odyssey to Improve Teaching Practice:

**Self-Study Scholars' Collaborative (S³C) on the
Visually Rich
Digital Learning Environment**

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Self-Study Scholars' Collaborative (S³C) on the Visually Rich Digital Learning Environment

O a one-year, transdisciplinary and collaborative self-study learning community devoted to the self-study of teaching and learning in and with visually rich digital learning environments.

Image & Text

- 0 **An image-based world**, where digital devices and media bring to the fingertips of every connected learner not only the ability to consume visual images but also the power to create complex visual narratives
- 0 **Print-based faculty**: most university faculty ground their instructional styles, their scholarly pursuits, and their curriculum development in the print-based model in which they were formed and trained.

Dispositions of a Beginner's Mind ~ S³C

A willingness to:

- 0 **Explore** pedagogy and curriculum in “studios” of collaborative inquiry and exchange
- 0 **Embrace** mistakes as part of the process of growth
- 0 **Cultivate** openness to continuous learning and divergent thinking
- 0 **Experiment** courageously
- 0 **Learn from others** outside their discipline and instructional units
- 0 **Be vulnerable** within the learning community
- 0 **Share knowledge** generated by the study through presentation and publication, both individual and collaborative

Constantine, Samaras, & Smith, 2014

What is Self-Study?

Faculty systematically examine their role:

- 0 In a professional-based inquiry
- 0 With ongoing and regular peer review from critical friends
- 0 To improve practice and learning for themselves and others

How do **I** improve my teaching practice as a teacher using the self-study research methodology?

Self-study is beyond the self.

How Self-Study has Changed the Way I Teach Science
Kirk D. Borne (2011)

How can I integrate a scientific research experience **for the students** in my science classes, and thus reduce my dependency on a lecture style of teaching?

Who benefits from exploring this inquiry besides you?



So what & for whom?

Professional Benefits of Self-Study

- Acknowledges the complexities of teaching and learning
- Promotes integration and wholeness through collaboration

Lesley Smith, Digital Literacy Professor, GMU



We have the capacity:

- to learn by self-assessing our teaching practice
- to develop each others' capacities as learners and teachers

Self-study is trans-disciplinary.



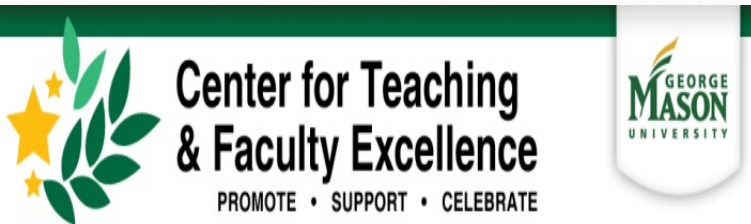
Scholars of Studying Teaching Collaborative
(SoSTC)
George Mason University, Virginia, USA



Where Innovation Is Tradition

Self-study can be topic based and university sponsored!

Scholars of Studying Teaching
Collaborative on **e-Learning** (SoSTCe-L)

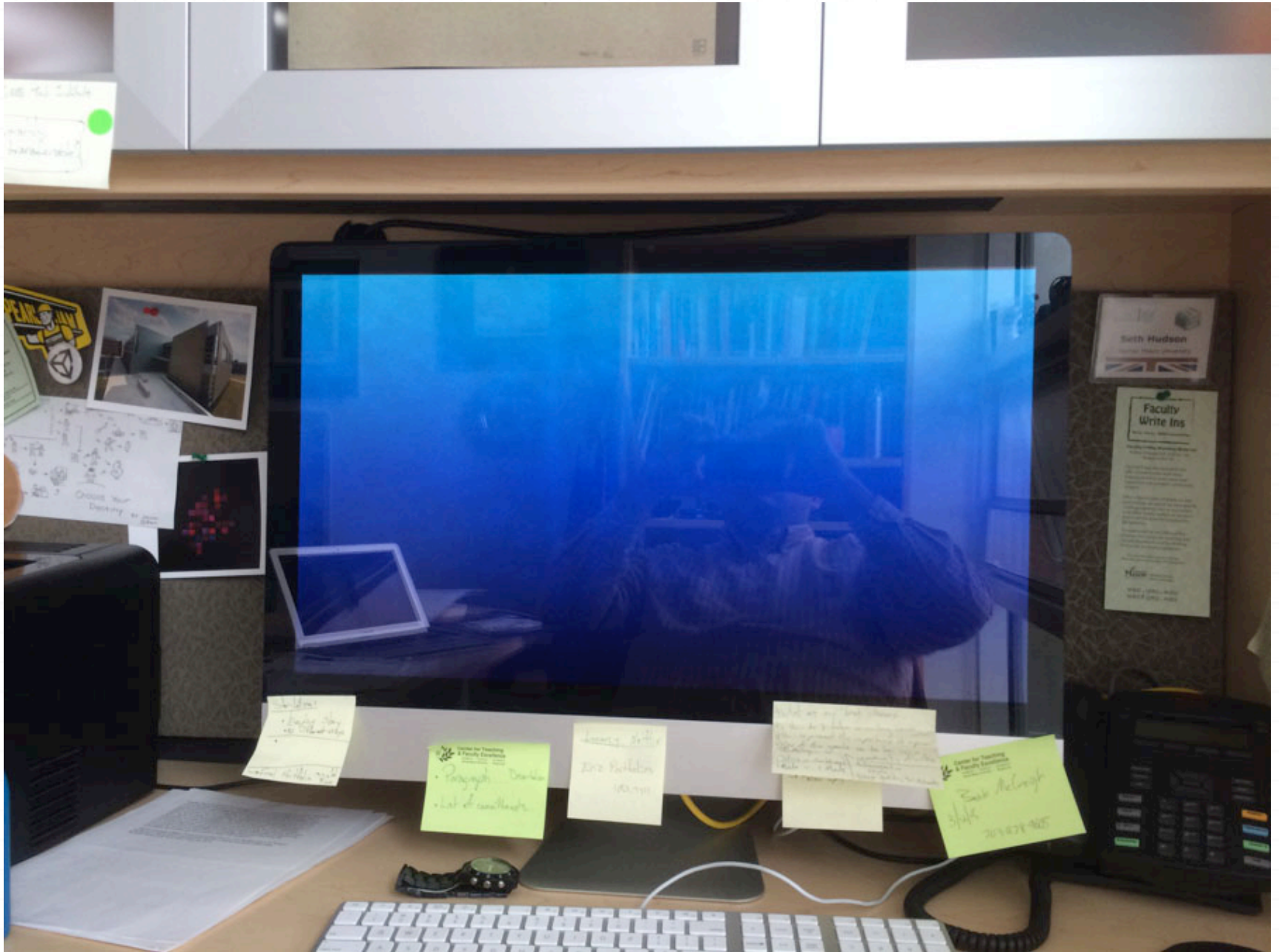


ONLINE
EDUCATION

Self-Study Scholars' Collaborative (S³C) on the Visually Rich Digital Learning Environment











Can one
provoke &
measure
student
intention
reliably?
(Transfer)

What effects
do peer review
experiences
have on
writers?
(Decision-
making)

Online
Classes

What
pedagogy
succeeds in
teaching
peer review?
(Faculty)

Who asks?



Big
Data

$p=.023$

My Development Plan (Confidential with Instructor) Name:

Step 1 self-assessment. Step 2 goals and personal course objectives. Step 3 course assignment and strategy decisions. Step 4 agreement and launch...

Step 1: Self-Assessment (go with first impressions, short answers or dashed points)

1. What are your tech skills?

I feel mostly like a novice ___ I know a few things pretty well ___ It clicks. I'm familiar with a wide variety of tools ___

Check whichever you have some experience with... circle those you have proficiency:

Word processing Mobile apps Social networks/Facebook Social media (Twitter, Blogging, Pinterest...)
Image work/Photoshop Data and Charts/Excel Presentations/PowerPoint/Keynote/Prezi
Desktop Publishing (Flyers, Brochures) Audio Production Web Development Programming
Vector Graphics/Illustrator Video Production Digital Animation/3D Game Development
Telemeetings/teleconferencing Group productionware Specific corporate/business work system

Other(s): _____

2. What are your communication skills (circle)?

As a friend or partner:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent
As a listener:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent
As a presenter:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent
As a writer:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent
As a designer/artist:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent
As a group member:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent
As a leader:	Strong/Confident	Good	Fair	Weak	Varied/Inconsistent

Your strengths as a communicator:

Your growing edges/areas for improvement as a communicator:

3. What are your creative talents and interests?

4. What are your work/life/media experiences?

I haven't worked very much ___ I have worked some in a few places ___ I've had many different jobs ___

What have you learned so far about yourself as a worker?



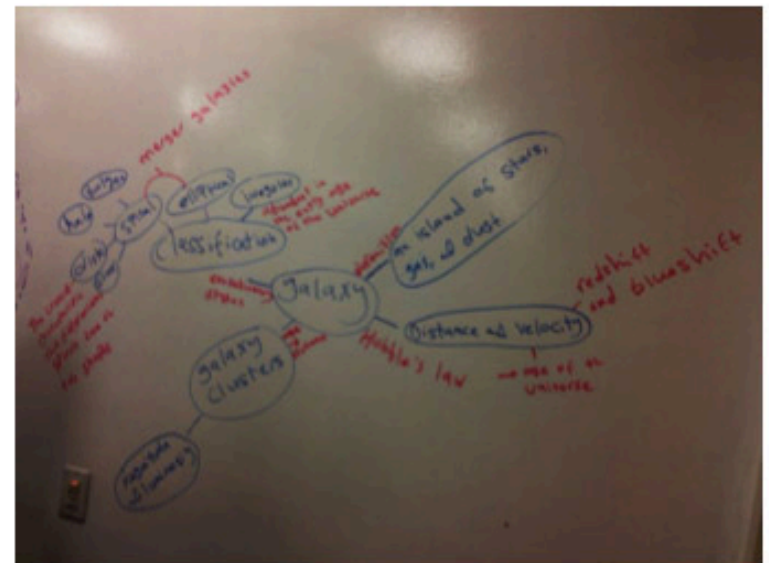
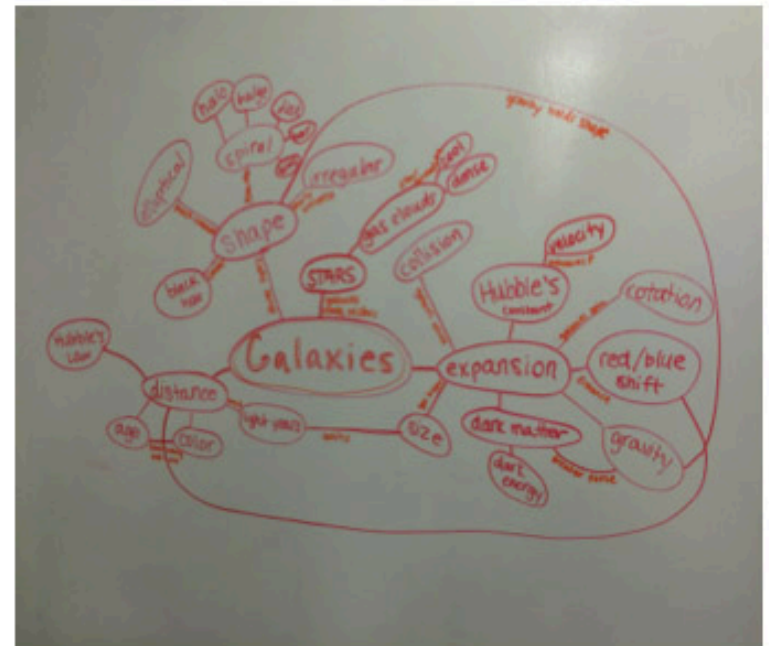




Mapping teaching and learning in astronomy

Formative assessment – finding holes in teaching

Student reflection – giving students a tool to evaluate their learning





**ITAL FLORIDA
TRIESTE**

IMO 9308038

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Walking the Walk: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

MULTIPLE MEANS OF REPRESENTATION

MULTIPLE MEANS OF ACTION/EXPRESSION



MULTIPLE MEANS OF ENGAGEMENT

Using UDL principles to teach about UDL

Any Questions?