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Eliminating Writer’s Block: Flipped Classroom Meets ThinkSpace

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Methods

- Reflection 1 Freewriting
- Reflection 2 Freewriting
- Reflection 3 Freewriting
- Reflection 4 Freewriting
- Revise & Upload Personal Statement Draft
- Carry-Forward Reflections to Personal Statement Template
- In-Class Writers Workshop
- Revise & Upload Personal Statement Final Draft
- Teams Comments on Drafts

Background

- Students find writing the personal statement to be a challenging and anxiety-producing aspect of the internship application.
- We previously implemented Flipped Classroom and small group learning approaches into the Foundations of Dietetics course.
- While these strategies facilitated peer feedback on personal statements, students lacked a structured system for providing comments and were limited with in-class time to provide feedback.

Results

- Difference between 2014 and 2015 is statistically significant ($p<0.05$)
- Standard deviations are lower in 2015 and 2016 suggesting more agreement among students than in the previous three years

Student Evaluation Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mean (1=Strongly Disagree, 5=Strongly Agree)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Overall, this course has been effective in advancing my learning.

Student Evaluation Comments

- "I enjoyed being able to peer review other students personal statements because it gave me a better understanding of how to write my personal statement and I received very good constructive criticism on how to better my personal statement. I liked doing the peer review outside of class so that we had time to give thorough feedback rather than being rushed."
- "Being able to get feedback via ThinkSpace on my personal statement was very helpful in developing a better final draft."
- "A flipped classroom has really been beneficial in understanding the process of how to apply for a dietetic internship. It has also helped me get to know my other peers of whom I have in my current classes."