Let’s Get It Started (& Stopped)
presented by:
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Introduction

Assessments

- Presentation effectiveness
- Examine behavior
- Alternative method

“Information Literacy Program Assessment: One Small College Takes the Plunge”

- Written in 2003 by Mary Flasphohler
- Start/Stop Essay
  - 2 start habits
  - 2 stop habits
Background

1st Study conducted during summer 2006.

Consisted of 5 classes producing 58 essays.

Determination of keyword phrases: 49 Start, 52 Stop.

Results: students don’t always follow instructions

Conclusion
- Succeeded in assessing instruction and student perceptions
- Inspired additional research
Question

Are Start/Stop Essays useful as an assessment tool for library instruction?
Study Design

Participants

- 486 undergraduate students
- English Composition, Persuasive Writing, American Literature
- All classifications

Preparation

Students attended a presentation to learn about library resources

Task

Following the presentation, students were asked to list:
- 2 start phrases
- 2 stop phrases
Results

Start Phrase Categories

- Online Library Resources: 46%
- Organization/Planning: 26%
- Other Online Resources: 3%
- Physical Library Resources: 10%
- Other: 4%
- Better Research Strategies: 11%
Results

My favorite starts include:

“...using a good 3-4 items instead of just 3-4 items”

“...asking the librarian questions instead of walking around with my head cut off.”

“...using the library’s glorious resources”
Results

Stop Phrase Categories

- Procrastinating: 39%
- Over reliance on Internet: 37%
- Using bad research habits: 8%
- Being Insecure about Assignment: 6%
- Failing to use Library Resources: 4%
- Other: 6%

Stop Phrase Categories
Results

– “Procrastinating” ranks at the top, followed by “relying on web sources”

– Apparently, procrastinating has a little identity problem:
  - procastinating
  - progastinating
  - procasting
  - procastanating
  - procrasnate
  - prograstinating
  - procrasinate
  - procrastonating
Results

My favorite stops include:

“Thinking that people from Mississippi are stupid”

“Stop not setting the microwave clock so it will stop flashing 12:00”

“Using BS websites”

“I also learned not to let water moccasins in the library”

“Stop sneaking drinks in the library”
Conclusion

- Found start/stop essay it to be a wonderful assessment tool and a great review assignment for the session.
- Students frequently indicated that they would try to start and stop certain habits, especially when it comes to the Internet.
- Some did not take the assignment seriously, which of course is irritating.
- The issue of time. There were many sessions in which there simply wasn’t time for students to do the essay – and I wasn’t willing to sacrifice instruction for assessment.
Recommendation

The start/stop essay would be useful for an instructor seeking to:

- understand their students level of knowledge
- use a different form of assessment.
Resources


Thanks!

Please feel free to contact at

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