

Writing Across the Curriculum • IAP Workshops 2014

Visual Literacy: Strategies for Incorporating Classroom Critical Thinking in the Visual Representation of Research

Felice Frankel, Research Scientist, Center for Materials Science and Engineering

Monday, January 27, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12-134

This workshop will include a presentation and hands-on exercises addressing the too often ignored component of communication: the visual expression of data and concepts. Just as in writing text, creating visual representations is not only a means of communication but also a process that itself advances and clarifies thinking.

From Assignment to Revision: How Instruction and Feedback Shape Student Writing

Suzanne Lane, Senior Lecturer, CMS/W and Director of Writing Across the Curriculum

Tuesday, January 28, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12-134

What kind of instruction and feedback will help students understand how to write and revise their assignments, to hone and develop their ideas, or to understand central concepts about effective communication? This workshop will draw on composition research to explore the range of instruction and responding practices, from rubrics to peer review to individual conferences, and when each is effective. By considering feedback in relation to other forms of instruction, participants will learn to provide the kinds of comments and strategies that will help students understand how to improve both their specific texts and their abilities as writers.

Thinking and Talking: Oral Communication in the Classroom

Andreas Karatsolis, Lecturer, CMS/W and Associate Director of Writing Across the Curriculum

Wednesday, January 29, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12-134

This workshop will examine the rich variety of forms that classroom oral presentations can take, both as a way to scaffold thinking and as a way to assess students' conceptual understanding. Workshop participants will be able to work on (re)designing assignments for their current or future courses by developing (i) a deeper understanding of fundamental oral communication concepts, (ii) strategies to integrate oral communication assignments into a class, and (iii) techniques and tools to provide feedback on student presentations.

In-Class Debates: Another Option for an Oral Communication Assignment

Edward Schiappa, Professor and Interim Head of CMS/W

Thursday, January 30, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, 12-134

This workshop will cover the basics of putting together assignments involving in-class debates. Specific issues covered include the mechanics of how to word good debate topics, set time limits, and structure debate formats, as well as how to teach the basic skills that students will need to acquire in order to participate in debates.

All Writing Across the Curriculum workshops are open to faculty and teaching assistants who are interested in integrating writing and speaking into their subjects.

For more information, please contact WAC via sear@mit.edu or (617) 253-3039.