

LEARNING PORTAL: VIRTUALLY-FACILITATED COURSES

Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy (TEAL): Student-Centered Learning: Keys to Motivation and Persistence

Summary and Objectives

Audience: Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructors

Summary: Student-centered learning (SCL) is an instructional approach that focuses on student needs, allowing students to influence the content, activities, materials, and pace of learning according to their interests and needs. In student-centered instruction, the student is placed at the center of the teaching-learning dynamic so that information transmission is secondary to students' needs, abilities, interests, and learning preferences. In this way, the teacher in a student-centered classroom becomes a facilitator of learning rather than a transmitter of knowledge. This course provides an overview of SCL as well as strategies for moving toward student-centeredness in adult classrooms.

Objectives:

- Identify the characteristics of student-centered learning
- Discuss the benefits of student-centered learning and the implications for the teacher's role
- Demonstrate understanding of how to apply research on learner motivation and persistence in adult literacy programs and the impact of student-centered learning on motivation and persistence
- Describe strategies for implementing student-centered learning
- Identify changes teachers can make to ensure that their classrooms are learner centered

Course Logistics

Format: Facilitated, asynchronous, online

Estimated Completion Time: approximately 2 hours per week; 6 hours total

Expectations: Participants are expected to read and post at least once in each of the course discussion forums; submit the required journal activities; watch recorded presentations; read the background readings and resource pages of the course; set a goal for their professional growth; and complete assignments and the final evaluation. Download a Certificate of Completion upon successful completion of course requirements.

