

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.

Course Topics

Let's get started

- *Journal:* Rate your knowledge: What do you know about student-centered learning?
- *Forum:* What do you want to know about student-centered learning or learner motivation and persistence?
- *Reading:* Face-to-face learning vs. online learning

What is student-centered learning?

- *Video:* Putting students at the center of learning
- *Video:* Enhancing learner persistence
- *Background Readings:* Learner persistence, goal setting, motivation, and student-centered learning
- *Forum:* What do we know about learner motivation and persistence?
- *Forum:* What do we know about learner goal setting?
- *Forum:* Barriers to completion

Student-centered learning: Let's put it in context

- *Forum:* Evidence-based design principles
- *Video:* Helping your students increase their writing fluency
- *Video:* Preparation for college and careers

Assignments: Choose one

- **General:** Help learners set goals
- **General:** Explore research behind student engagement
- **Writing:** Explore research on student-centered learning and relate it to writing instruction
- **Math:** Explore research on student-centered learning and relate it to math instruction

Self-assessment

- *Questionnaire:* Answer 10 questions (select writing or math self-assessment)

Take time to reflect on your own goals and progress

- *Forum:* How can student-centered learning help us improve writing/math instruction?
- *Journal:* Set a personal teaching goal for creating a student-centered learning environment

Wrap-up and summary

- *Recording:* Course recap

**For information on course availability,
contact the LINCS Professional Development Center at pdcenter@lincs.ed.gov**

<http://lincs.ed.gov>



Twitter: @LINCS_ED



LinkedIn: LINCS_ED group



YouTube: LincsEd