**The Power of Story: Using Narrative Writing to Improve Student Learning and Success**

**Examples of Narrative Assignments:**

* Reflection logs/journals - labs, clinicals, large projects and thinking back through the process
* Case studies - pre-created ones or have students write one - education, health sciences, business/law
* Letters - to grandma, a sibling etc. explaining concepts, process, skills, etc.
* Process description - math, labs, computer sciences, computer networks, health sciences, business, research projects
* Put yourself in their shoes - imaginative recreation - history, humanities, health sciences, business
* Digital storytelling - using multimedia - video, audio, visuals
* Interviews - to hear and understand others’ stories
* Interpret a concept and apply in story form - tables of data, geometric patterns, physics principles - have them an event in a larger story or tell a story that gives the background (famous example 1884 novella *Flatland* by Edwin Abbot)

**What about your curriculum and classes?**

* What is a discrete skill or set of knowledge that your students need to know/remember in your class? What are students needing to interpret or understand?
* How might an assignment ask students to create a narrative structure to store that knowledge and/or skills?

**Resources**

*Storytelling, Self, and Society* - academic journal available in library databases

Boris, Vanessa. “What Makes Storytelling so Effective for Learning?” *Harvard Business Publishing* (2017). [www.harvardbusiness.org/what-makes-storytelling-so-effective-for-learning](http://www.harvardbusiness.org/what-makes-storytelling-so-effective-for-learning)

Bruner, Jerome. “The Narrative Construct of Reality.” *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 18, (Autumn 1991), pp. 1-21.

Ketelle, Diane. “What is Storytelling in the Higher Education Classroom?” *Storytelling, Self, and Society*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (2017), pp. 143-150.

Kinnear, Penny and Annie Simpson. “Narrative as a Pedagogical Approach to Teaching Leadership and Engineering.” *Canadian Engineering Education Association Conference* (2016).

Konnikova, Maria. *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes*. Viking, 2013.

Nathanson, Steven. “Harnessing the Power of Story: Using Narrative Reading and Writing Across Content Areas.” *Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts*, Vol. 47, No. 1 (2006).

Szurmak, Joanna and Mindy thuna. “Tell Me a Story: The Use of Narrative as a Tool for Instruction.” (2013).

Willis, Judy. “The Neuroscience of Narrative and Memory.” *Edutopia*, (2017). [www.edutopia.org/article/neuroscience-narrative-and-memory](http://www.edutopia.org/article/neuroscience-narrative-and-memory)