The Second Time’s the Charm!

The Second Time’s the Charm: Improving integration of information literacy concepts in an advanced Biochemistry class

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Pilot Project

What: Library instruction for CHEM 4530: Proteins & Nucleic Acids

Who: Senior Biochemistry students (all pre-med/pre-dental/pre-pharm)

How: Pre-class materials, PBL module in-class, graded lab report/lit review post-class

Why: To promote improvement in research behaviors & to instill the practice of critical reflection of the research process. Also to determine if an outside expert can measurably affect performance.

Assessment: Graded lab reports & end of semester survey
What’s the Problem?

#1 Articulating the importance of an article to larger, multidisciplinary concepts

#2 Too much crammed into a single lab session

#3 Citation construction is still terrible

#4 No understanding of student perceptions

#5 Library instruction felt separate from, not integrated with the Chemistry course
Take Two

Problem #1 (Articulating Importance)
- Integration of an annotated bibliography on a trending Biochemistry topic.
- Class discussion of incorporating research

Problem #2 (Cramming)
- Librarian attends 3 class meetings (introduction, plus 2 instruction sessions)
- Librarian has office hours

Problem #3 (Citations)
- Change citation style to match curriculum
- Class discussion on citations
- Citation game (for extra credit) & links to style guide in CMS

Problem #4 (Student Perceptions)
- Focus groups
- Survey

Problem #5 (Integration)
- Librarian listed as co-instructor on syllabus
- Co-teaching with disciplinary faculty
- Librarian responsible for 50% of the lab grade