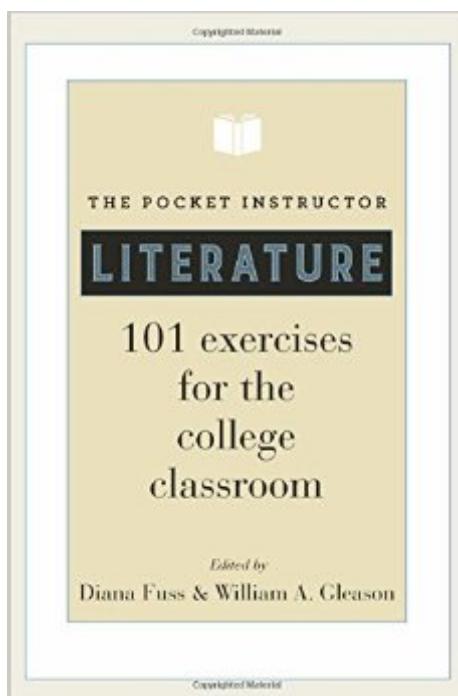


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The Pocket Instructor: Literature: 101 Exercises For The College Classroom



Synopsis

This is the first comprehensive collection of hands-on, active learning exercises for the college literature classroom, offering ideas and inspiration for new and veteran teachers alike. These 101 surefire lesson plans present creative and interactive activities to get all your students talking and learning, from the first class to final review. Whether you are teaching majors or nonmajors, genres or periods, canonical or noncanonical literature, medieval verse or the graphic novel, this volume provides practical and flexible exercises for creating memorable learning experiences. Help students learn more and retain that knowledge longer by teaching them how to question, debate, annotate, imitate, write, draw, map, stage, or perform. These user-friendly exercises feature clear and concise step-by-step instructions, and each exercise is followed by helpful teaching tips and descriptions of the exercise in action. All encourage collaborative learning and many are adaptable to different class sizes or course levels. A collection of successful approaches for teaching fiction, poetry, and drama and their historical, cultural, and literary contexts, this indispensable book showcases the tried and true alongside the fresh and innovative. 101 creative classroom exercises for teaching literature Exercises contributed by experienced teachers at a wide range of colleges and universities Step-by-step instructions and teaching tips for each exercise Extensive introduction on the benefits of bringing active learning to the literature classroom Cross-references for finding further exercises and to aid course planning Index of literary authors, works, and related topics

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Customer Reviews

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a new college instructor with a doctorate in Literature, must be in want of teaching techniques. I have been teaching literature to college students for about two years and as much as I love the material I teach, I struggle with communicating the most important aspect of why we teach literature to all kinds of majors: critical thinking is not reserved for quantifiable subject matter alone. What I mean by this is that if a student can assess a work of literature, derive meaning from it, understand it on more than one level, tear it apart and put it back together again, he or she can productively contribute to any manner of occupation, and society in general. This is where *The Pocket Instructor* comes in. This book is filled with tried and tested exercises for the college classroom that help an instructor connect with the active learner, and offer ideas to enhance student-centered pedagogy. As expressed in the introduction, “These days the work environment is frequently an extension of the learning environment. Our capacities for social interaction, group problem-solving, and intellectual play, along with a willingness to keep on learning, innovating, and implementing, have become core conditions for success in a rapidly evolving and increasingly networked global economy.” So this handy little book (neither small, nor lean, mind you) groups the exercises by categories, such as those that initiate discussion, get at the elements of literature, and some that are staple exercises for any literature class, etc. Each exercise is explained in a few detailed paragraphs and then the instructor offers reflections on their own in-class experience, such as what worked and how students reacted, grew, what they learned, etc.

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