Encouraging International Students to Embrace Research and Creative Activity

Introduction

Research and creative activity can provide quality student experiences. However, research can be a challenge for many international students because of differences in higher education between the United States and other countries.

International students, like home students, should have a research portfolio that represents a variety of scholarly and creative work. This poster offers suggestions for faculty to plan their research outcomes and help international students improve their understanding of research.

Challenges

For international students

- **Google vs. databases**: While most students use both technologies to gather information, international students rely on Google and might not understand the importance of scholarly literature found in databases.
- **Terminology/Concepts**: Research terms might not be familiar to many international students.
- **Theories**: A lack in research skills could lead to difficulties in understanding and applying theories.
- **Scientific/Academic**: International students might want to pursue ideas that have practical implications for situations in their home countries, rather than scientific or academic exploration.

Suggestions

When designing research assignments and projects

- Define research.
- Think beyond the “term paper” (e.g., poster presentation).
- Consider assigning two or three small research assignments.
- Have students apply theories often to their experiences.
- Encourage students to think of themselves as consultants offering their views.
- See if a research project could coincide with something significant/important/relevant in your field.
- Collaborate with another course.
- Encourage the student to use a classroom assignment as a building block for the thesis or dissertation.
- Encourage students to consult with a librarian.
- Direct students toward a variety of library resources – print, electronic, multimedia.
- Suggest specific databases or other library resources by name.
- Discuss what constitutes plagiarism and the consequences you will take.
- Embed a research guide in the LMS.
- Break the research assignment into manageable parts.
- Explain how research will be evaluated.

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