COMMUNITY-BASED/EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING and INFORMATION LITERACY

6 points in 6 minutes: Bruce Gilbert, Professor of Librarianship, Drake University
1. What I did
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- 3-credit course
- During Jterm
- Approved by Appropriate committees
2. Why Experiential Learning?
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• Personal interest
• Desire to make Info Lit “real”
• Support/suggestions from Drake’s EL people
3. How it Worked - Course Structure
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- “Hybrid” Approach, but mostly online
- Big Project: 12-15 page research paper
- Built around interview
- Had to research the area (business, nonprofit) first
- Let choose their own topic
- 3 1-week modules
4. How it Worked - Students
4. How it Worked - Students

• Course designed for FY students
• 8 students, some FY, some transfers
• Variety of majors, backgrounds
5. Outcomes - Work and Perceptions
5. Outcomes - Work

- Work was generally of high quality
- Not a one to one correlation between quality of work and personal value
5. Outcomes - Perceptions

• Students liked the course and found it valuable
I would recommend this class to others as a Jterm experience.

Strongly agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Course was very insightful and enlightening. I was able to get in touch with the professor very easily. The course was very well organized and the expectations were clearly communicated. I truly enjoyed this class. It was helpful that we got to pick our topic because most picked a topic they were passionate about. I did not mind writing the big paper.
6. Finally,
5. What would I do differently next time?

• Require students to interview someone they DIDN’T know!