

Experiential Learning: Two Different Approaches

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Technical Writing (English 105)

Students in this course take on a major project requiring them to find a client for documents that will actually be used professionally. They write a proposal then produce the documents and give a presentation on them in class. Clients can be groups or programs on campus, non-profit organizations in Stockton, or local businesses. Students in the past have created guidelines used by the Red Cross, brochures soliciting donations for the Delta Humane Society, and websites for academic programs such as Ethnic Studies and campus groups like Kilusan and the Pep Band. Current projects this semester include marketing materials for Barnes and Noble, employer contact letters for the Engineering Co-op Office, and tutoring guidelines for the Center for Community Involvement.

Jane Austen (English 133)

In this literature course I give my students the option of doing a research paper or a project requiring them to somehow take Austen “out of the Pacific classroom.” No student, in five sections, has *ever* opted for the paper—despite the fact that projects are actually more time consuming. Students planning teaching careers frequently teach guest lessons in local schools and over the years have done so for Lakeside Christian Elementary, Victory Elementary, Tracy High School, St. Mary’s High, Lincoln High, and Edison High. Others have conducted reading groups for organizations including local churches and Pacific sororities. I also sponsor a Jane Austen Night on campus in December so students can share their work with the Pacific community. Stop by and join us this year on December 5th in the President’s Room!