

Ecology Summer Workshop Feedback Form 2011 Responses

1. Describe your reaction to this session:

I love this teaching methodology. I really like the steps outlined in designing lab experiments, I needed the tips on getting my students to read and do their homework, I found the advice and demonstrations of how to guide and assess activity-based learning invaluable.

Whoa! There will be a major shift in my teaching starting now.

Very positive since I was able to gather new insights from other attendees as well as from Kristen. I like the ideas around using assessments to teach not only to grade.

I wish I could teach like you every day. I'm working towards a no lecture classroom, but am still honestly 50-70% lecture despite loving to use hands-on methods.

I feel so enlightened by your teaching methods. I used to use more labs, but I realize now that I was not making the students think, just "do". I plan to make a determined effort to integrate many more critical thinking experiences, particularly labs where the student must find their curiosity and then use scientific means to explore further.

2. Did you learn anything about teaching methods that will significantly impact the way teach your class?

I can see now how many different ideas can be incorporated into one activity in layers of complexity. Since this is more like real world problems, I feel like this is a good way to present complex information to the kids.

The increased thinking that happens when modeling and working in student groups is used. The use of debates and current events to build scientific reasoning.

Creating a community of learners has always been a goal of mine and I feel like I have seen a practical example where students see themselves as "scientists."

Using student-designed labs, using the structure you taught us with the peer review so my students know how to apply the scientific process to one question after another.

I like how you kept us moving and thinking for long periods of time consistently each day. I need to use these techniques in my 90 block periods so we get the most out of each class rather than using a portion of the period of homework.

3. What things should I change or definitely not change about this workshop?

I liked experiencing the activities because it makes it easier to envision how I would use the activities in my own class. I really loved going out to different locations and learning about specific examples that I can take back to my class and use as case studies.

The field trips, the games, the fun - keep it all!

Don't change a thing!

4. What type of teacher would you recommend take this workshop?

One thinking about making the challenging leap into more and more student-centered learning.

Besides the obvious (high school teachers), I think all middle school teachers should take this workshop so the students are better prepared for the skills they will need in high school. All university and college level teachers should also be using these methods so our students are thinking while doing instead of just listening and absorbing without gaining the skills to use in their profession.

I think this workshop can benefit all teachers. New teachers who need help with ideas, and more seasoned teachers who are doing mainly lecture-based classes need to come to this workshop.

Can we get all Georgia teachers to take your workshops as a state requirement?

One that feels a little stuck and wants to improve, also young or first time teachers.

5. What would you say to another teacher about this workshop?

Do it! It will completely shift your paradigm.

A great way to get you thinking about effective ways to update, improve and solidify your ability to incorporate solid hands-on experiences.

Go to this workshop! You will not only learn about the content, you will also gain a new perspective on hands-on learning or be reminded about approaches that you know you should be using in your classes.

It will excite you about teaching and it will challenge you as a teacher. It'll give you the tools to get your students excited about biology and not teach you to entertain the kids but lead them to discover their education.

This will change the way you teach.

Any of Kristen's workshops are a must for an in-coming teacher. If I had been teaching like this from the first year I would have saved myself and my students many days of trying things out when instead I could have been teaching through guiding at a high level from the get-go.

Fantastic, well worth the investment!