

Teacher, Class: Valentin Lapaine, Psychology

Project name: Teaching about optimism bias

Describe your project: If you are working with any individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses in the community, please list them.

The student will work alone, but she will carry out a workshop targeting students in several classes. She will teach them about optimism bias.

Student input: How (and to what degree) were students involved in selecting and/or organizing the project?

After showing students various examples of biases, the student said she would like to do a project about optimism bias. I suggested several ideas on activities she could incorporate in her project, after which she carried out independent research and designed the project by herself.

Academic component: What curriculum goals will be achieved? How?

The student will develop an understanding of the factors affecting mental processes and behaviour because she will study optimism bias in depth. She will also develop an awareness of how psychological research can be applied to address real-world problems and promote positive change because she will use her newly acquired knowledge to teach other students about optimism bias, which might prompt them to be less biased and more objective.

Service component: How will the community benefit?

Students will learn about optimism bias, which might prompt them to be less biased and more objective.

Reflective component: In what ways will the students reflect on this experience (journals, class discussions, etc.)?

The student will write a short reflective paper, as well as briefly discuss her experience in our psychology class.

Character component: In what ways will this project contribute to the personal development of your students (responsibility, respectfulness, empathy, citizenship, collaborative skills, etc.)?

The project will contribute to the student's personal development as she will need to demonstrate respectfulness and empathy when explaining optimism bias to students, as people generally do not like to be shown or told that they are biased.