

Developing a Story-Centered Curriculum

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What's a Story-Centered Curriculum?

- A rich, engaging, and motivating story providing a coherent context for learning
- A sequence of tasks taking place in that story that serves to exercise key knowledge and skills in a principled progression and to encourage their acquisition just in time
- A collection of task-indexed learning resources
- Access to in-person and online mentors to help with just-in-time learning.

Tasks in Developing a Story-Centered Curriculum

- Enumerate learning goals in the form of performance objectives (not “know X” but rather “be able to do Y”)
- Prioritize learning goals (really knowing a few key things in depth is usually better than knowing a lot of things superficially)
- Draw scenarios from professional practice (i.e., the life the student will live after graduation)
- Distribute learning goals across scenarios, adjusting the scenarios as necessary to accommodate them (but noting that something that doesn’t arise naturally in practice may not be worth teaching!)

Tasks in Developing a Story-Centered Curriculum (continued)

- Create an overview *Task-Description Matrix*
 - Tasks **X** [Description, Student deliverables and checkpoints, critical learning outcomes, and time to complete]
- Create a *Detailed Task Description* for each task
 - Original source
 - Prerequisite knowledge and skills
 - Performance (learning) goals
 - Scenario set-up and the students' task
 - Scenario resources (e.g., data provided to students)
 - Detailed descriptions of student deliverables
 - Key student decisions
 - Common mistakes
 - Readings and resources
 - Mentoring resources

Tasks in Developing a Story-Centered Curriculum (continued)

- Create a course introduction
 - Description of how the course works
 - Description of the scenario and the learner's role within it
- Develop scenario materials for each task
 - Scenario documents
 - Task inputs (including any scaffolding)

Tasks in Developing a Story-Centered Curriculum (continued)

- Develop performance support for each task
 - Detailed descriptions of required learner deliverables
 - “What this task is about and how to get started” document
 - Step-by-step guide for each deliverable
 - Examples of each deliverable with expert commentary
 - Self-check checklist for each deliverable
 - Tools and tool help
 - Submission rules for each deliverable (or for task as a whole)
 - FAQ’s
 - Learning resources: links to online material and pointers to offline paper-based and video material
 - Identification of and contact information for course mentors: process coaches and subject-matter experts.
- Develop optional materials for each task
 - Case studies
 - Self-contained stories to illustrate key lessons.

Tasks in Developing a Story-Centered Curriculum (continued)

- Write a general guide to mentoring
 - How being a mentor in an SCC differs from traditional teaching
 - A survival guide of practical tips
- Write task-specific mentoring materials
 - Introduction to the students' task and deliverables
 - Good Socratic questions to ask
 - Common student errors
 - An assessment guide (if the mentors are grading)
- Develop course website and any associated technology
- Develop delivery plan: people, processes, technology.

And that's all there is to it!