

Faculty Work Comprehensive List

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Learning by Leading: Using Social Work Month Planning as Task Group Engagement

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Learning by Leading: Using Social Work Month Planning as Task Group Engagement

Keywords

problem-based learning, social work instruction, task group techniques

Disciplines

Higher Education | Social Work

Comments

Presentation from the 2015 Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Annual Conference "Social Work: Educating the Masses" held in Kansas City, Missouri, March 4-8, 2015.

Learning by leading

Social Work Month Planning Committee

Social Work Month Planning Committee

- Structure of the assignment
 - SOWK 311: Social Work with Groups
 - Typically 10-18 junior-level students

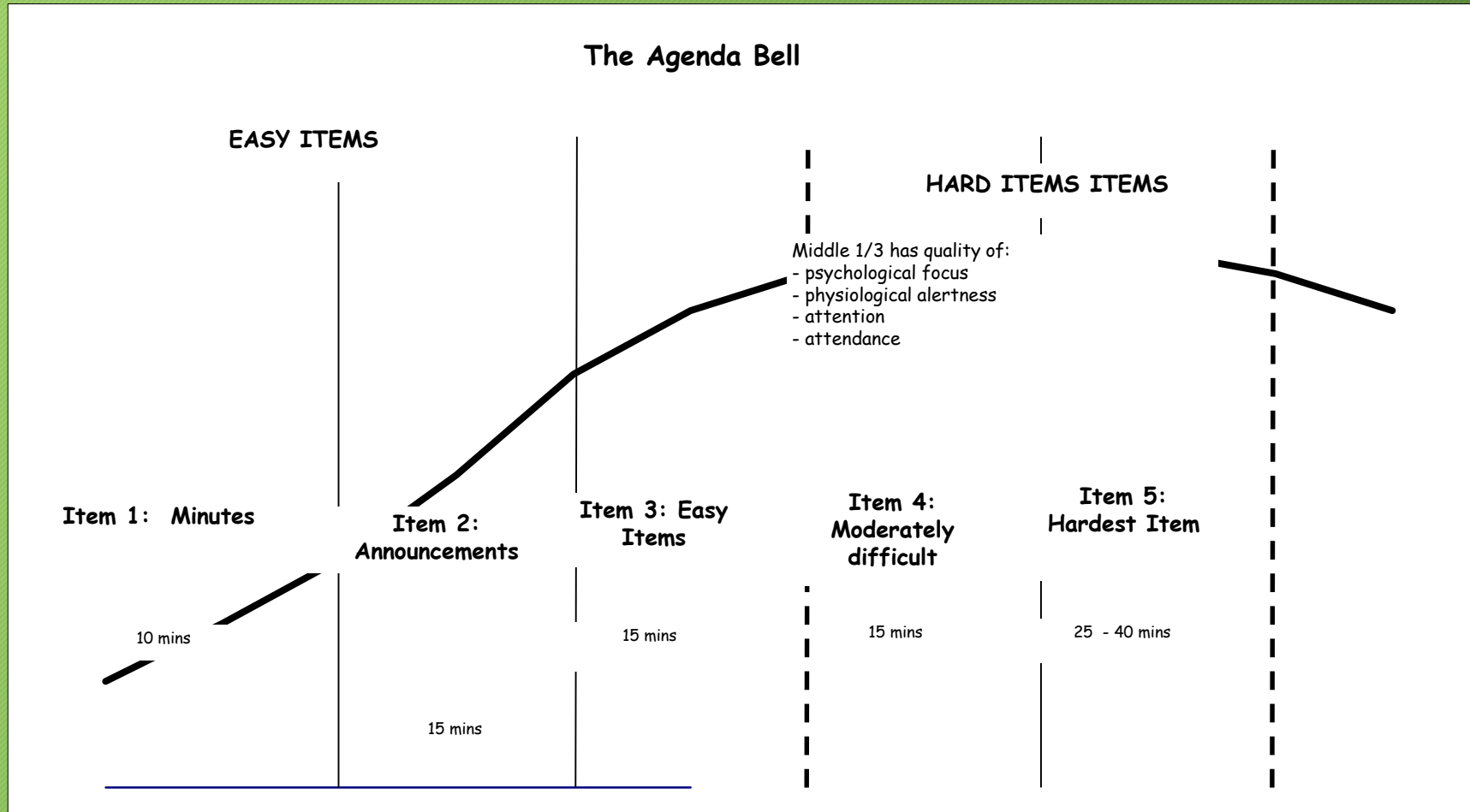


Problem-based Learning Framework

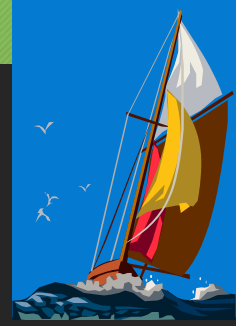
- Engages students as stakeholders in a problem
- Creates a learning environment in which teachers coach student thinking and guide student inquiry, facilitating deeper levels of understanding
- Professor monitors and coaches student learning and thinking

(Torp and Sage, 2002)

Tropman's Agenda Bell



How to make things go right...



- The role principle
- The Orchestra principle
 - Score = agenda
 - Rehearsals = preparation
 - Conductor = chair
 - Musicians = members each have a specific contribution

- The content principle
 - Meetings should be organized by content, not by reports from individuals
- The three-character principle
 - Informational
 - Decisional
 - Discussional

The goal of the meeting is high quality decisions.

Task group techniques employed...

- Brainstorming
- Round Robin
- Ranking ideas
- Delegating

Student Roles and Responsibilities

- Work together to accomplish the task of creating, planning and implementing social work month activities.
- Create theme for the month
- Lead meetings
- Work together in subcommittees
- Organize volunteers for events
- Publicize events



Professor's Role

- Stay out the way as much as possible
- Trust the students to do their job well
- Emphasis on the details of planning a good event, communicating with respect with maintenance and other offices on campus
- Point out that sometimes good planning means you decide to pull the plug on an event
- Encourage them when they get nervous and/or overwhelmed



Reflection & Processing Throughout

- Analyze group skills (worksheet)
- Challenge ideas, beliefs about leadership
- Reflect on their role (and others' role) in the group
- Providing opportunities to offer feedback to others in the group that they identified as a good leader and a good team member

Things that could be improved

- Keeping the theme in front of the students—developing greater connections to the theme
- Developing a better assessment tool to evaluate individual performance in the group
- Other ideas?

Outcomes



- Practice Behaviors: Identify as a professional social worker & Engage in practice in a task group.
- Students often cite this project as one of the more memorable and useful in developing basic work and planning skills.
- Students are more willing to engage in future planning events after having done it in this class.
- Recruiting tool! Raises awareness on campus for our program, for various social problems and the profession of social work.

Questions, comments?

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