

Getting Started with an SoTL Project

Research Question

What are you curious about? What would you like to know about your students' learning results?
Do you want to know if an activity, assignment, or teaching strategy "works?"
Do you have a question about how to help your students learn a particular skill?

Identify one student learning outcome that is related to your question.

Describe the learning in a way that suggests how you might *measure* it using either qualitative or quantitative methods.

Describe the instructional activity, assignment, or teaching strategy that will promote student learning on the outcome you identified.

SoTL projects might investigate the impact of a *modification* to an existing strategy or assignment. Describe how the new approach differs from the old approach and why this modification might change student learning on this outcome.

Describe the evidence that would persuade an external audience that the new or modified teaching strategy improves student learning on the targeted learning outcome.

Describe the evidence you would need to collect to answer questions about the impact or value of this teaching strategy. How would you convince others that this approach is better than other approaches? What comparisons should you make? Examine students; skill before and after the assignment? Compare students who complete the learning activity to another group of students – what comparisons would be meaningful?

Where would you publish or present this work?