Northeastern University

Center for Advancing Teaching
and Learning Through Research

Evidence-based Teaching in Your First Semester and Beyond

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Goals



- Overview of the concept of Evidence-Based Teaching
- Benefits of Evidence-Based Teaching
- Consider NU Faculty use of EBT and insights derived
- Apply the concept to your teaching at Northeastern
- Resources and opportunities offered by CATLR

Overview: What is Evidence-Based Teaching?



Evidence from Students

Teaching decisions grounded in evidence from student learning experience (e.g., their work products, reflections, feedback)

Teaching & Learning Inquiry

Scholarship of Teaching & Learning



Evidence from T&L Literature

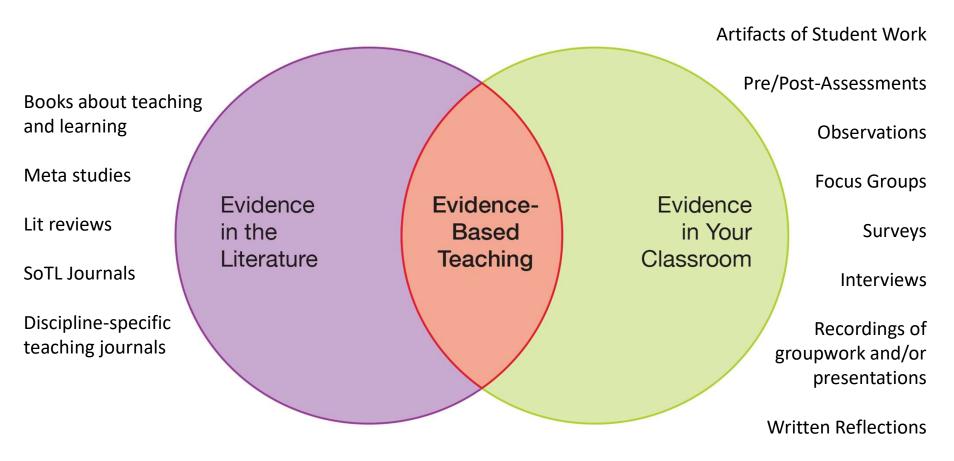
Teaching decisions informed by findings of research on how people learn in general, and teaching within disciplines

Connecting with other faculty to approach teaching in a spirit of curiosity + exploration

conducting structured studies to explore a question about learning that originates in one's own teaching context

Overview: Types of Evidence





Benefits



Now

- Improved teaching and student learning
- Shared language around the learning sciences that supports collegial conversation about teaching

Looking to the future ...

- Potential conference presentations and publications
- Promotion dossier
 - Prepares you to write a strong teaching statement
 - Documentation of teaching effectiveness & teaching-related scholarship

EBT Process



What should students know and be able to do?

What questions do I have about my students and their learning?

Course Goals

Existing Evidence

What research on learning is relevant to my goals & context?

What am I having my students write, do, make that I can examine to understand how they ... see the impact of ...?

What additional evidence might I gather and/or have my students generate?

Based on student evidence, what additional T&L research might I want to consult?

Enriched Evidence

Example





Lucy Bunning
Associate Teaching
Professor
NU Global

Students take the risk of communicating in English inside and outside the class, increasing proficiency and confidence

Goal

Existing Evidence

What factors might be at play when students decide whether to speak?

- Outside of class: journal
- In class: think-pair-share
- In class: exit ticket

"Willingness to Communicate"



Enriched Evidence

Your Turn: In Pairs or Triads



What should students know and be able to do?
What questions do I have about my students and their learning?

Course Goals

Existing Evidence

What am I having my students write, do, make that I can examine to understand how they ... see the impact of ...?

What additional T&L research might I consult?

What additional evidence might I gather and/or have my students generate?

Enriched Evidence

Share Out: Several Volunteers



What student learning goals did you focus on? What do you want to know about them?

What observations or questions emerged from this exercise?

Evidence-Based Teaching Recap





TYPES OF EVIDENCE		
Books about teaching and learning	Discipline-specific teaching journals	Surveys
-		Interviews
Meta studies	Artifacts of Student Work	
		Recordings of
Lit reviews	Pre/Post-Assessments	groupwork and/or presentations
SoTL Journals	Observations	
		Written Reflections
	Focus Groups	

You May Be Thinking ...



Wow, this is a lot!

How can CATLR help me document my teaching and develop a body of work for promotion?

How CATLR Can Help



Ongoing Offerings

Consultations

- Assignment and course design
- Class observations
- Student focus groups
- Analyzing course evaluations

Events and Groups

- Workshops related to EBT
- Thematic inquiry groups focused on topics of interest
- Groups dedicated to shared area of T&L research

Teaching Innovation Scholars

Application in Winter semester. Year-long program, fully online, runs May 2025-26.

Program Overview:

- Develop a systematic study of teaching innovation aligned with NU T&L priorities
- Collegial, cross-disciplinary community
- Author resources and essays featured in CATLR newsletter and website
- Present at CATLR's annual CAEBL conference
- Assistance in developing conference proposals and publications beyond Northeastern

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We are here to help Feel free to contact us at CATLR@northeastern.edu