9fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

9th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

29 Mehefin – 2 Gorffennaf | 29 June – 2 July 21

# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Weaving the Braid: Perspectives on the Benefits of Exemplar Use in Live Sessions for Distance Learners

Laura Stephenson

My role as a lecturer in Advanced Media Production [AMP] involves helping post-graduate students achieve grades which reflect a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter appropriate for a Masters level qualification.

Since the Aberystwyth University AMP scheme started in 2019 I have found that many students are capable writers, yet fail to achieve higher-level essay grades because the structure of their argument lacks integration of academic sources, examples, and analysis.

This paper examines the benefits of using exemplar assignments to nurture the students’ understanding of a sophisticated discussion by showcasing work which weaves together multiple discussion ‘strands’ into an effective, structured argument. Many scholars have previously discussed the benefits of using exemplars as a pedagogical tool. In addition to my specific focus on post-graduate students, this research is differentiated from other exemplar-studies through its application in a purely online environment. The AMP Masters is a permanent distance learning scheme (regardless of Covid conditions) where all teaching and learning takes place online. In the absence of hard copies and physical classrooms, this paper explores how exemplars can be effectively employed in distance learning scenarios by using new technologies such as Microsoft Teams, and specifically the ‘share screen’ option and ‘collaborative/shared document’ function.