Enhancing Library Instruction with Crossword Puzzles in Kinesiology Classes

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1 Introduction

The goal was to determine if using crossword puzzles increases students’ engagement in learning information literacy concepts.

2 Literature review

Crossword puzzles were designed with a free online tool: http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.asp

Terms were adapted from library sciences dictionaries.

Crossword puzzles were distributed during library instruction sessions in five kinesiology classes with a total of 101 students.

Print handouts were provided to students as a supplemental material not covered during the 15-minutes lecture. Handouts’ content included suggested library resources for students to complete their research papers ranging from searching tips, discovery tools, criteria for evaluating articles, list of health related databases, to writing effectively, citing other’s ideas, and formatting citations in APA citation style.

Completed crossword puzzles were collected either in class and if not completed in class, instructor received them at the next class session.

Feedback from students was solicited in writing on the back side of the completed crossword puzzles.

3 Methods

The crosswords were completed by a total of 64 students, which yielded a response rate of 63% of the total of 101 students enrolled in all five classes.

Nearly one third of students submitted written feedback on this activity:

• They indicated that crossword puzzles were a fun way to review resources available through the libraries and wished to have more of them in other classes.

• Only a few students found the crossword puzzles challenging and time consuming but a few others liked the challenge and worked with a friend.

4 Results

When hunting for the answers, students perceived that this assignment prompted them to consult the handouts distributed in class in addition to exploring the library’s web site. Using crossword puzzles is a creative way to reinforce material covered in library instruction classes.

5 Conclusion

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References


