

Preparing for International Students

Research at Thompson Rivers University (Garson, 2006) revealed that while faculty who were interviewed cited language as the main challenge for international students, both international and domestic students identified other challenges such as expectations in group work, workload and academic integrity. In response to this research, I worked with a team at TRU to produce vignettes that provide insight into some of the challenges.

We created four vignettes that address: content and checking for understanding, rhetorical style and the thesis statement, academic integrity and working in a group. Each vignette is a compilation of instruction that is less than effective, an explanation of the underlying challenge and a demonstration of possible adjustments by the instructors that have proven to be more effective for them. Each section takes about 15 minutes. Included is a list of references. This may provide some insight into what is going on for the students' and impact your teaching strategies.

Culturally Diverse Learners is available as an Open Education Resource through BC Campus at:

<http://solr.bccampus.ca:8001/bcc/items/e9c660f5-06e5-ed0a-2826-e6abfbc3122e/1/cdl.zip/cdl/index.html> (Select the preview button to access the four vignettes).

Submission by
Emma Bourassa B.Ed, M.Ed Curriculum, EDD (in progress)
Thompson Rivers University, Canada
www.tru.ca