Powerful Endings

A focus on course experience
What is metacognition?

The ability to “understand and monitor one’s own thoughts and the assumptions and implications of one’s activities” (Lin 2001)


https://www.flickr.com/photos/53801255@N07/8571446514

Jason Schreiner, TEP, University of Oregon, 2020
What is metacognition?

“To become self-directed learners, students must learn to assess the demands of the task, evaluate their own knowledge and skills, plan their approach, monitor their progress, and adjust their strategies as needed.”

(Ambrose et al. 2010)
Why metacognition?

Studies indicate that students who engage in metacognitive exercises improve their exam performance, written or designed products, and problem-solving ability.

Metacognition helps students improve their sense of self-efficacy and independent agency, which in turn motivates students to learn.
How can we end a course with metacognition?

Two approaches (among many):

1) Identify the most significant idea or moment

2) Represent the big picture and its significance
Most significant idea or moment

1) What was the most significant idea you learned in this class, or what was the most significant moment of your learning? Why?

2) How has your perspective or understanding of [class subject] been changed, challenged, reinforced or deepened as a result of this idea or moment?

3) What is one way you intend to use or apply your learning in your future endeavors?

4) What have you learned about yourself as a result of having to learn remotely this term?
Student poster example that represents a most significant idea

The Oregon Donation Land Act was passed in 1850, offering 320-acre parcels to thousands of white immigrants. In five years' time, settlers would claim 2.8 million acres of Indian land.

indigenouspeoplesmovement.com
opb.org/broketreaties/anoralhistorytracingoregonsnativepopulation
Big picture

Prepare a graphic letter to your future self or to a friend or family member, in which you represent with images and short descriptions the following four things:

1) What was the overall movement or journey of ideas in this class?

2) What was the most significant idea or moment of learning for you along the way? Why?

3) How do you intend to continue this movement or journey moving forward? That is, what is something you intend to use or apply in the future?

4) How did you experience the process of learning during this class? Include one high point and one challenging moment (which might be the same).
Student poster example that represents big picture theme
Powerful Endings

A focus on course content
Summing up course content

• Themes and connections
• Areas that still need work
• Skills
• Applications
  • other courses
  • outside world
  • career
Identify the five big ideas

**Individuals:**
1. Bring own list to class

**Small groups**
1. Consensus
2. Post to Canvas discussion

**Whole class**
1. Compare
2. Surprises?
3. What’s interesting?
Create a concept map

Make maps for
• content knowledge
• skills

Make maps
• by hand
• using free online tools


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