Instructions

A handout was distributed containing the instructions to complete the activity using their notes, course materials, and textbooks. Each group understood that only twenty-five minutes were allotted to each of the three steps, and time limits were disclosed on the chalkboard during each step of the activity. The instructions for each step were as follows:

1. Explain the concept you have been assigned in the handout (e.g. “the Byronic hero,” “Frame narrative”).
2. Find examples in your texts that illustrated this concept.
3. Create a new scenario that illustrates this concept.
4. The class duration was seventy-five minutes, and at the end of class all eight groups submitted their written answers for each of the three steps of the in-class learning activity to the instructor. When all groups were finished, a self-assessment of perceived value was distributed to each student who was instructed to complete it independently and individually. Approximately five minutes were allocated for the self-assessment, and then the instructor collected the self-assessments.

Reporting

Each group was instructed to select a representative who would record the products of the group’s collaboration on each step on a sheet of notebook paper to be turned into the instructor at the end of class. For each of the eight student groups, a “scribe” volunteered. All of the scribes who volunteered were female and Caucasian.