

Student Conference: A Sense of Belonging

Dr Paula O'Brien, Chloe Hennie, Kimberley Leather and Mzingaye Ngwenya



Introduction

The drop in academic confidence between school/college and university points to the university environment as a new environment in which the student has to develop a level of confidence.

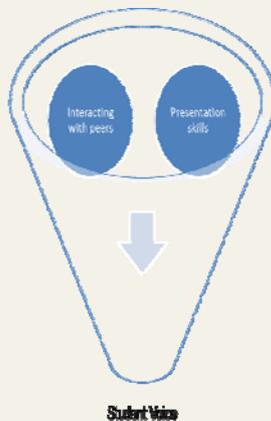
What Works Report (2012) found that over one third of new university students experienced doubts in Term 1 serious enough for them to consider leaving university.

A review of the student experience during Welcome Week informed the Student Conference. The aim of the conference is to explore and support the experiences of transitioning students.

A Sense of Belonging



Utilizing the Get Set Data



Working with secondary research

'We were given a journal article that we had to read. We helped each other pick out the key findings. Our article was on the experience of international students and we discussed how these findings could help us manage group work'

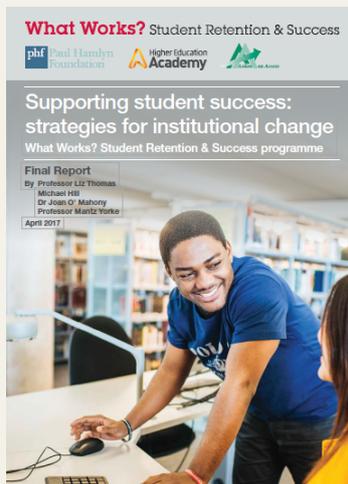
'Our group looked at the meaning of social capital. We then took this further by thinking about what this meant for new students joining university.'

'I have not used a journal article before but it was easier working in a group to try and understand'

'We all had different topics to work on and we could visit the other posters to see what other students had found'

'It helped looking at the work of other students as we were able to compare what they had done'

What Works?



Building academic confidence



A follow-up study included:-

- The recruitment of first and second year students as researchers on related themes
- The production of 2 student led videos. Video 1 will be used to inform the implementation of cross-cultural teams within the curriculum and Video 2 will be used to highlight further thoughts on a Sense of Belonging

References

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Building Confidence through Collaborative Learning



'this was less daunting for me because I was working in a small group'

'we were chatting about stuff while we made our posters'

'I now feel I could say hello to a few people on my course'

Acknowledgements

To the 250 students who attended the student conference and without their participation and enthusiasm the conference would not be possible

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