



MEDICAL EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP CENTRE

Medical Education Scholarship Forum Proceedings

The Community of Inquiry framework and metacognition: A practical way to improve critical thinking and metacognitive awareness in students

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Background: The Community of Inquiry (CoI) framework was developed by Garrison, Anderson, and Archer at the start of the 21st century and provides a coherent, succinct conceptual structure to facilitate achieving critical thinking and metacognitive outcomes in students. The concept of ‘community’ suggests learning occurs through interactions among students as well as with the instructor, while ‘inquiry’ suggests constructing personal meaning, so both the internal and external realities of the student are acknowledged. **Objectives:** At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to explain the fundamental constructs that comprise the CoI framework; utilize the framework in their course planning so critical thinking and metacognitive outcomes are explicit and achievable; and articulate which learning technologies may help facilitate critical thinking and metacognitive outcomes. **Facilitation:** Total time = 1.5 hours. Presentation –20 minutes. The first part of the workshop will involve a short presentation by the facilitator about the CoI framework and recent research on critical thinking and metacognition. Activity – 40 minutes. The facilitator will ask participants to complete a metacognitive survey and will provide participants with a template for utilizing the CoI in course/lecture planning. Working with at least one partner, participants will discuss the results of the survey and then consider how the framework could be used to enhance aspects of their teaching and course delivery. Sharing outcomes – 20 minutes. Participants will share the ideas/strategies/methods they developed with all the other participants. Debrief – 10 minutes. Participants will be asked to describe what they learned in the session and how they will use it when they leave.