

Teaching Commons News

As the weather cools down, teaching heats up!



Snow may be just around the corner, and for some that brings feelings of excitement, while others respond with a healthy dose of denial and dream of sundrenched beaches. Whatever your reaction, we would like to encourage an ongoing feeling of positivity and warmth around teaching and learning at York. We have plenty of suggestions to help you connect with others and practical support

Looking Ahead to TIF

Regular readers will know that this is our annual teaching conference - Teaching In Focus rather than some film festival or other. Please make a note in your diary for May 19th and 20th, and look out for an announcement in the early new year calling for proposals.

Teaching Commons Blog

We have been extremely pleased with the response to the weekly Teaching Commons blog. Each week a different member of the York teaching community contributes a short piece, on a range of topics. Readers may join the debate by adding their comments. To see the full list visit: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/teaching-commons-blog-teaching-and-learning-at-york/> We welcome contributors – interested? Email cpopovic@yorku.ca.

The Teaching Commons aspires to higher things

Mandy Frake Mistak and Celia Popovic have pledged to climb all the way to the top of the CN Tower on November 7th in support of the University's fundraising for United Way. If you would like to sponsor them please visit:

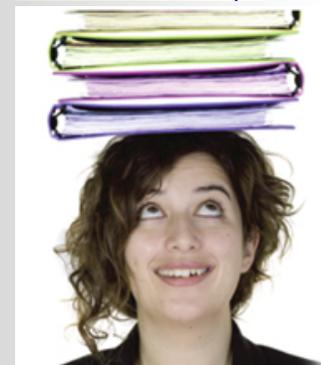
<http://tinyurl.com/pz97ufy>

Teaching Dossiers

Considering putting together an application for a teaching position? Checkout this workshop, offered 3 times:

10 - 12 November 25th
10 - 12 December 2nd
10 - 12 January 14, 2016

<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/workshops/putting-together-your-teaching-dossier-workshop/>



Academic Integrity

The Academic Integrity Council of Ontario held the annual meeting at York on Friday October 23rd. Representatives from a range of Ontario Universities gathered to discuss the challenges posed by this topic. Whether we are concerned with plagiarism, designing assessments that discourage cheating, or wondering about cultural expectations by students and faculty, there can be few of us who are not touched by this issue.

Consequently, you may be interested in a webinar offered by the Teaching Commons on November 26th Using Turnitin as a Teaching Tool– details as ever, on our website.

Would you like know how to use Turnitin as a teaching Tool? If so join our Turnitin webinar II on 12 pm -1.30 pm, Thursday, November 26, 2015. In this webinar, we will discuss how Turnitin can be used to promote students engagement and collaboration. Please note that this webinar assumes basic knowledge about setting up and using Turnitin in the York Moodle environment. For registration, go to <http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=291442>. You can also access recordings of our previous webinars <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/2015-2016-webinar/>.

Old Academic Integrity Web site to be phased out.

Please note that this Academic Integrity web site is no longer being maintained, and will be discontinued late April, 2016. Content is in the process of being migrated to the following websites. Faculty are asked to update links in syllabi, course web sites, etc.

- Academic Integrity for Students has been replaced with the [SPARK Academic Integrity module](http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic_integrity/index.html) - http://www.yorku.ca/spark/academic_integrity/index.html
- Academic Integrity for Faculty/TAs is now found on the [Teaching Commons Academic Integrity web site](http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources-2/teaching-strategies/academic-integrity/). - <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/resources-2/teaching-strategies/academic-integrity/>
- Information on the updated Academic Integrity quiz (resource for use by instructors) is available at our [SPARK Resources page](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=589347&sid=5615868) - <http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=589347&sid=5615868>

For more information, please contact [Mark Robertson](mailto:markr@yorku.ca) email markr@yorku.ca

Experiencing Experiential Education

We are delighted to announce that our next workshop on EE has a focus on the Community – and for the first time it will be taking place at the CEC



<http://teachingcommonsforms.apps01.yorku.ca/forms/view.php?id=269686>

eLearning @York Course

We still have seats available for our November and December eLearning@York course. For course schedules and registrations, visit <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/for-cds/workshops-and-courses-for-cds/courses/elearning-york-course/>

Finally, a note from our colleagues in the Learning Commons



SPARK Quizzes Now Available

The [Learning Commons](#) is pleased to announce that quizzes for each of the thirteen [SPARK modules](#) are now available.

SPARK, the Student Paper and Academic Research Kit, is an e-learning resource designed to help students succeed at written academic assignments. SPARK focuses on the development of academic literacies, such as research, writing and learning skills.

The SPARK modules cover a wide range of academic literacies that are core to completing a written assignment, including:

- Understanding the Assignment
- Academic Integrity
- Books, Journals & More
- Research Strategies
- Essay Structure
- Writing Strategies
- Essay Editing
- Time Management
- Choosing a Topic
- Gathering and Noting Ideas
- Effective Reading Strategies
- Creating Bibliographies
- Revising Arguments

Of particular note, the SPARK module for [Academic Integrity](#) is replacing the older [Academic Integrity Tutorial & Quiz](#), which will be retired in May 2016.

The SPARK quizzes can be assigned to students to help ensure that they have reviewed and understood the material in any of the assigned modules. Information about how to assign the quizzes is available in the Quiz section in the [SPARK Resources Guide](#).

More information about SPARK, including strategies for integrating modules into your course curriculum, is available in the [Faculty Module](#).

This newsletter is available as a *.pdf* at
<http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/tcnewsletter/>