

ABSTRACT

Title: Using Involvement Theory to Construct a First-Year Seminar Course for Freshmen

Student: Kellen R. Story

Degree: Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education

College: Teachers College

Date: May 2012

Pages: 67

The purpose of this creative project was to develop a First-Year Experience (FYE) course for matriculating college students that included many developmental components including life skills, diversity immersion, and a mandatory student involvement component. This project was done to create a structure within FYE settings that emphasizes outside involvement as a complement to the academia components.

This course was designed as a complement to the overall first-year experience that freshmen students will have. While FYE programs already exist, this class was made to further get the student involved with his or her school outside of the classroom. Many FYE programs have involvement components that encompass work, volunteering or other clubs – but none that were studied made it a mandatory component. By engaging in outside involvement outside of the classroom, students become more affiliated with his or her college surroundings and may have a better collegiate experience than a student who is not engaged with involvement. With the design of this class, students will become more involved with their university or college at both the social and academic level.