Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

2002

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TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CONTEXT IN NATURAL RESOURCES SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT: A vast body of research from education, psychology, and neuroscience suggests that learning is highly context dependent, acquired through experience and involvement in real-world situations. In contrast, traditional teaching methods often disassociate learning from meaningful contexts, and students spend more time passively watching and listening than actually doing. Exclusive use of methods like these is particularly inappropriate in natural resources science and management, because of the professional orientation of these curricula. This workshop will explore three related teaching strategies that promote learning through engagement in real-world contexts and situations: role-play, case studies, and problem-based learning. Participants will identify what learning outcomes each strategy best facilitates; learn how to plan and implement each strategy, including proper facilitation techniques; evaluate the applicability of each strategy to their own courses; and compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of each strategy.