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It Takes Two Partnering for Freshman Achievement

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It Takes Two: Partnering for Freshman Achievement

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Despite the fact that first-year students are technologically savvy, their experiences in basic research and library skills may not be at the level for success in the first year of study and future academic success. The University of Central Florida first-year experience course, Strategies for Success (SLS), has always stressed the importance of research skills and library resources. In recent years, a stronger partnership between the SLS and library faculty has been forged to include student learning outcomes based on the concepts of information fluency and a major assignment required for the SLS course. This course requires each class to spend at least one class period in the library receiving instruction from a librarian. Basic navigation skills including an orientation to library services, the online catalog, a database for finding articles are taught and students are exposed to a variety of resources so that they can begin the task of identifying scholarly vs. non-scholarly information.

This presentation will focus on one SLS section taught in Spring 2008 which required students to write a 3-5 page research paper investigating an important event that occurred the year they were born and the impact of that event on their life today. The discussion, presented by the librarian and SLS instructor, will address the intended student learning outcomes, the library instruction, and assessment of research skills through the use of library pre and post tests and of the final version of some of these research papers.

For further information or a copy of the PowerPoint slides used in presentation, please contact Dr. Linda K. Colding at lcolding@mail.ucf.edu or Mr. Stephen O'Connell at connell@mail.ucf.edu .