STOPPING BAD APLL SPOILING THE COMMUNICATIONS BARREL
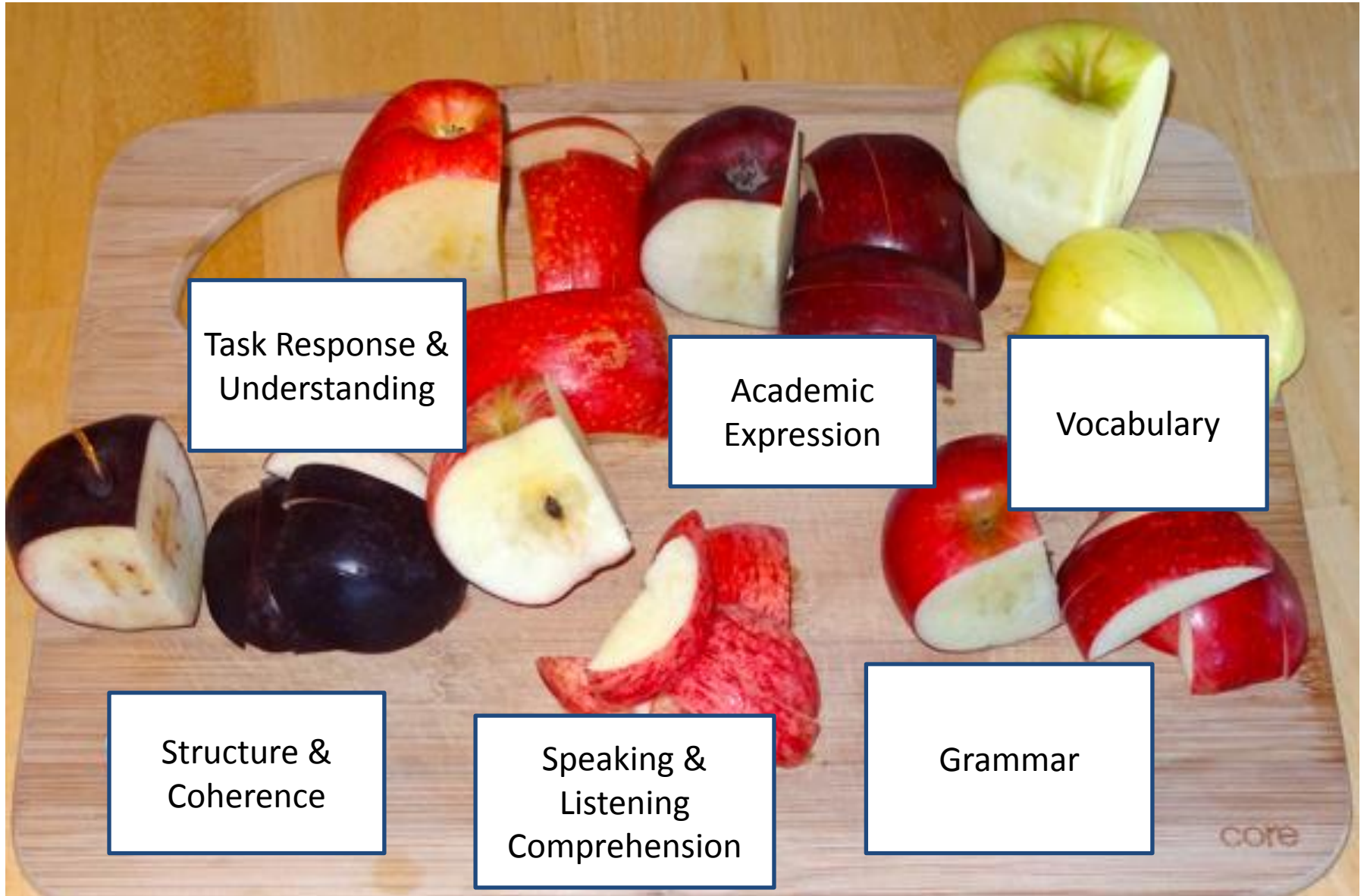
Peter Copeman and Bethany Randell

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Foundations of Professional Planning

**compulsory first-year 'shell' unit
with common design structure
but discipline-specific content**

APLL skills development is specified in these unit learning outcomes:
1. *Identify discipline-specific and generic skills, attitudes and abilities they will need in their academic and professional lives over the next five years;*
2. *Master communication modes appropriate to their discipline and professional destination;*
3. *Employ effective communication in specific academic assessment tasks.*

APPL diagnostic test

Task Response & Understanding

Academic Expression

Vocabulary

Structure & Coherence

Speaking & Listening Comprehension

Grammar

APPL diagnostic follow-up

Band	Explanation	Pathway
8 - 9	Good: few, minor errors, mainly accurate, largely appropriate	More Independent
6 - 7	Fair: frequent problems, some inaccuracy, some inappropriacy	Needs More Support
1 - 5	Poor: substantial problems, mostly inaccurate, mostly inappropriate	Need Intensive Help

Good: You have **quite good academic language skills**. These will provide a solid foundation for your weekly learning and assessment tasks in this unit. It is important you build on your academic language skills throughout your degree.
- You will **receive a My Writing Lab license and are encouraged to use this tool** to develop your writing skills.

Fair: You have some **foundational skills in academic language**. You need **support to develop these skills** to help you achieve success in your chosen UC degree.
- You will be **provided with a My Writing Lab license** and are encouraged to use this tool to develop your writing skills. You will be **required to demonstrate action taken to improve your writing**.
- You will be **supported in your use of My Writing Lab by a Communications Mentor, who will work with you 1:1** and provide support and encouragement as needed.

Poor: You **need to work on your academic language** to reach the standard required for success at UC.
- You will **receive a My Writing Lab license** and are encouraged to use this tool to develop your writing skills. You will be required to demonstrate action taken to improve your writing,
- You will be **supported in your use of My Writing Lab by a Communications Mentor, who will work with you 1:1** and provide support and encouragement as needed.
- We strongly recommend that you **attend free language learning workshops, 1:1 support in the Library** and **1:1 Ressie language support** to help you with your assignments after working hours.

All students are made aware of learning support resources and services available at UC

mywritinglab - the 2014 Trial

800 students completed the diagnostic task & 1-1 interview with tutor
316 students identified as having APLL development needs *(39.5%)*
316 student enrolments in the MWL trial

Practicalities:
1. Manually enrolled in Moodle
2. Given link to Pearson's My Writing Lab
3. Resources developed to support student access and use of MWL (video & text-based)
4. Part-time 'Communications Mentor' engaged
5. Enrolment and usage monitored manually via MWL plug-in

Trying to grow APLLs

with Pearson's MyWritingLab

Sad APLL:
My Writing Lab Usage in the Trial

316 student enrolments in the MWL trial

24 students used My Writing Lab *(7.5% of those identified as needing APLL skills development) – of those 24, none completed a module*

Not enough bites …

Low because…
1. MWL interface is onerous & not intuitive
2. Pearson's plug-in failed 3 times during the trial
3. 'another thing' for students to do
4. No official, policy-based, mandate requiring usage
5. Communications Mentor presence not easily identified by students – not used
6. Trial implemented over two months, and late in semester
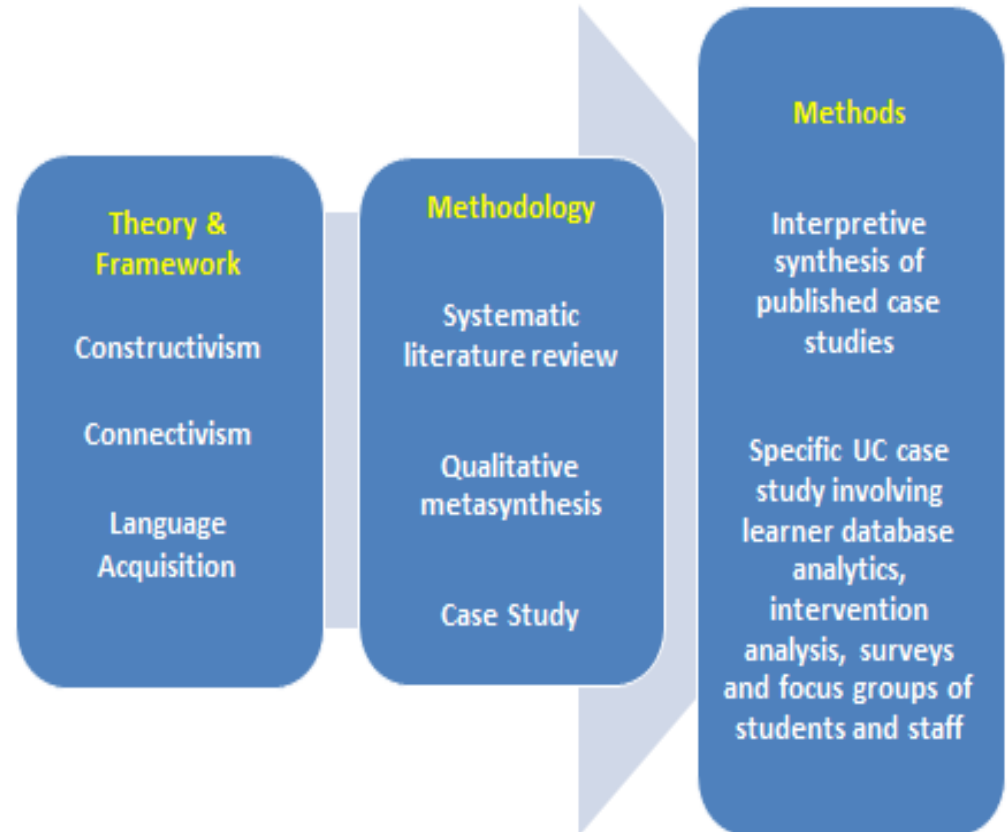
...?

2015 APLL in FPP: holding onto the core

1. Mapping out professional futures

2. How APLL skills can contribute to these professional futures

3. **Active promotion of Study Skills resources and reinforcement of need for Study Skills development (Twitter!)**

4. **Continuing access to MWL (using remaining licences)**

5. Now also a MOOC: *Navigating Your Professional Future* https://www.class-central.com/mooc/3858/canvas-net-navigating-your-professional-future In 2016 this will be expanded to take in all three modules of FPP. Commencing students will be able to undertake this MOOC as soon as they accept their offer of enrolment

Injecting some blood into APLL development

Research project

- Investigating case studies of curriculum-embedded APLL development in transition to university

- Examining UC's APLL development strategy, deployment and efficacy in *Foundations of Professional Planning*

- Developing principles and guidelines for good practice in developing transitional APLL sk

Theory & Framework

Constructivism

Connectivism

Language Acquisition

Methodology

Systematic literature review

Qualitative metasynthesis

Case Study

Methods

Interpretive synthesis of published case studies

Specific UC case study involving learner database analytics, intervention analysis, surveys and focus groups of students and staff

We need you!

LINK to SURVEY

Image: http://accucasting.com/?p=1