



Case Study

Overview

Students diagnose the problem in a case study and present an appropriate solution with rationale. Student response requirements can range from a one-paragraph answer to a fully developed group action plan, role-play, proposal, or decision.

A case study is ideal for: diverse perspectives, real-world problem solving and integrating concepts.

Case studies meet the following [WSU Learning Goals](#): critical and creative thinking, scientific literacy, information literacy, diversity, communication, and depth, breadth, and integration of learning.

Group size: 1-4 | **Active Time:** 30 mins | **Prep. Time:** High

Active time is an estimate and may vary depending on your class.

Implementation

Suggested Tech Tools: Blackboard Assignment, Blackboard Discussion Board, Blackboard Wiki/Blog, Blackboard Collaborate Ultra, Panopto, VoiceThread

Instructor:

Provide students with a case study. Most fully-developed cases have these common elements:

- A decision-maker who is grappling with some question or problem that needs to be solved.
- Context of the question or the problem (a law, an industry, a family).
- Supporting data, which can include data tables, websites, quoted statements or testimony, etc.

Students:

1. After reading the case study, identify the problem presented, and describe the context and considerations.
2. Formulate a solution supported by rationale and evidence to support your solution.
3. Cite your sources and be prepared to submit and share with the class.

Variations & Tips:

- For **face-to-face** courses, students can work outside of class and use in-class time to meet with other groups to compare solutions and/or present to the class.
- For **video conference (VC)** courses, use Blackboard Collaborate Ultra to allow distance students an opportunity to work with students at other campuses using breakout rooms.
- In **online** courses, students can use Panopto or VoiceThread to create short presentations of their solutions. Peers can then provide feedback.
- For **large-enrollment** courses, consider using a Think-Pair-Share approach.
- Practice one problem from a case study. Doing so will model how to define the problem, identify necessary data points, and analyze and integrate data into a solution. Then, ask students to work on another problem within the same case study.
- Break the problem-solving process into smaller sessions allowing sufficient time for research, analysis, presentation, and peer review.

You may also be interested in:

What's the Principle?
Pro and Con Grid
Think-Pair-Share

Resources:

[Case Study Teaching Method Improves Student Performance](#)

Let's explore the possibilities together!

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To find more activities, visit the LI website and select Teaching Tool Boxes.