

A Collection of gifts



Issue 21, Spring 2022

Great Ideas For Teaching

21.1 In This Issue...

Denise Stephenson

This single GIFT, the first multimedia GIFT, has been in discussion for quite a while. En route to publication, curry and I have had many a pho lunch to discuss the what, the how, the when, and even the who. More than one academic year has unfolded and various methodologies have been tested.

To imagine an asynchronous GIFT, wait, aren't all GIFTs asynch? Doesn't a teacher write any GIFT alone on their computer and then another teacher, alone somewhere on a computer, reads the GIFT and considers how to apply it in their classroom? That's all asynchronous, right? But if one wants interaction, like in an asynchronous course, the GIFT must be built with that in mind. This GIFT is just that.

The pandemic has taught us that we need each other, but that we can't depend on being together in a physical space to interact, to share, to grow together. curry designed this asynchronous GIFT to encourage sharing among us MiraCostan faculty. There is a *margin* space attached to each of the three main sections of this GIFT where sharing can occur. Like in the margin of any text (remember, curry teaches English), you can write or draw the connections that occur to you as you think, as you watch and read.

A GIFT focused on *listening* begs interaction. A GIFT focused on *agency* places action central to the story. And in between listening and agency comes *learning*. To appreciate curry's GIFT, to learn from it, you can watch a video (please don't do so at 0.5 speed where we sound totally wasted), link to articles by scholars, share stories by curry or other faculty who engage in filling the margins of this GIFT, add pictures or words to a Padlet. The options aren't endless, but they almost feel that way. In fact, I encourage you encounter this multimedia GIFT much as you would a podcast; don't do it amid your email or before running to class, do it when you've got some time to enjoy the journey.

I hope that you will not only click on the link to this GIFT, I hope you will engage with it. Use the *margins* to ask questions, to tell others what you're thinking about, to go beyond the confines of your office (be it bedroom, studio, patio...) and your head to read/reflect/reconsider/share.

It's been a gift for me to envision and curate *The Collection of GIFTs* for the last 16 years. I have enjoyed working closely with my colleagues on the sparks that ignite their teaching. I hope it will continue, but that's up to you. 📺

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21.2 Listening, Learning, and Agency in Asynchronous Space: A GIFT

curry mitchell, English

Submissions

Submissions are always welcome. There is rolling on-line publication.

Please submit work to M/S 9 or
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Teaching
Academy



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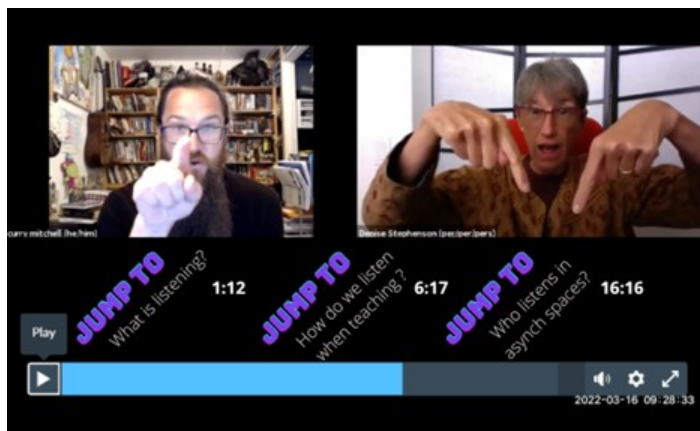
Great Ideas For Teaching

21.2 Listening, Learning, and Agency in Asynchronous Space: A GIFT

curry mitchell, English

My favorite, *favorite*, moments in the classroom happen in the gaps. Those "between" moments, you know?! Between the lecture and the project. Between the content on a page and the decision to annotate the page. Between one student whispering a question and their classmate deciding to raise their hand to take over the discussion. The moment when a student isn't saying anything or producing anything because they're *too* engaged. Call it listening. Call it learning. Call it agency. Their minds are on fire. They're deep in the process of value-making: constructing knowledge, building relationships, and honing skills.

If there is a GIFT here, on this Canvas page, it's in the gaps. You may find a few teacherly models (from me and hopefully you). Models are part of the form of this professional development content but not the goal or ambition of this GIFT. The ambition is in the gaps: I hope [the margins](#) lead to engagement "[for the sake of the aesthetic quality of the struggle](#)"; I hope [the margins](#) remind us we have "[ears, eyes, and fingers](#)" for enacting our agency; and I hope [the margins](#) afford meaning-making we make [together](#) as learners and listeners. ■■



Here's the link to the GIFT where you can engage with video, text, interaction.

<https://miracosta.instructure.com/courses/7495/pages/listening-learning-and-agency-in-asynchronous-space-a-gift>