Extending the Impact of Assignments through Sharing them with Friends and Family

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Materials needed: For the student, a 3x5’ index card.

Learning challenge addressed/predictable outcome:
- Active engagement for better learning
- Improving public speaking skills
- Extending thinking by sharing what they're thinking and what someone else is thinking
- Moving from student to teacher
- Exploring critical thinking skills
- Increased synthesis of material
- Better learner outcomes.

Best used for: written assignments, experiential learning assignments and group projects.

Learning objectives/skills fostered: Encourages critical thinking, moves student from research to application, moves students from learner to teacher, fosters public speaking skills/confidence.

What to do / how to do it: Students tend to complete assignments in isolation, and often up against the deadline. By having them have to share the assignment with a friend or family member, they extend how they think about the assignment and they have to plan time into their scheduled to do so after preparing their assignment.

Within the assignment details in my syllabus I include the following:

Regardless of which of the above options is selected, the final aspect of this assignment is sharing what you wrote with a trusted family member or friend. To confirm that you shared your assignment you are asked to have your family member or friend write their name and email address on a 3x5” index card, along with three things that they noticed about and/or got out of your sharing your assignment.

Tips for implementing: Let the students know that the person they share their assignment with needs to be someone other than a student also enrolled in the class.