Achieving the Dream
Learning Communities (LC) Integrated Assignment (IA)

**What is the IA?**

The Integrated Assignment provides an opportunity for LC colleagues to have students explore and learn about a global theme or concept, while also covering required the components built into the curriculum. In other words, students are still expected to cover chapters and assignments related to the coursework in REA and SLS. The IA is not *layered* but instead incorporated into the selected reading material. LC colleagues work collaboratively to carefully select assignments relating to the global theme.

**A Sample IA**

In fall 2007, Ybor campus selected the 2008 election as their theme. Margaret Petway taught the SLS class and Richard Gaspar taught the REA class.

- A mock registration was held; randomly assigning students to 1 of 4 political parties: Democratic, Republican, Independent, or Green Party
- Students were given various reading assignments related to the electoral process and the 2008 election.
- Class discussions on the readings.
- A guest speaker (an HCC graduate currently working in the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections office) talked to the class on the current voting system and voter responsibilities.
- The class held a debate weighing the pros and cons of the current electoral process versus past systems.
- A group writing assignment to share their perspective and what each learned from the experience.

**Possibilities are endless...there are no limits**

Community or Public Concerns such as:

- Politics
- Poverty/Welfare
- Health related
- Immigration
- Education
- Economy
Describe the integrated assignment (theme or connected project) you and your colleague are covering this semester. What activities and assignments you have planned?

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What learning outcomes from each course are embedded in this assignment?

- Opportunities to explore big ideas, questions, issues in world
- Active involvement in learning, i.e. solving problems, discussing ideas, writing, working on project teams
- Ongoing opportunities to collaboratively construct knowledge together in class
- Curriculum that values and builds on students’ existing abilities and experiences
- Academic skills introduced and practiced in broader academic contexts
- Multiple ways to make learning evident

What concept(s) do you want students to explore and sort out this semester?

- Understanding legal rights/processes
- Comprehending advance procedures/decision-making
- Formulating arguments (including) providing adequate support

What unknown(s) do you want them to discover?

- Think freely (ok to do so)
  - what you do with it, is what matters
- Agree to disagree
- Respect other opinions though you disagree
- Personal bias