



The Teaching-Research Nexus

A guide for academics and policy-makers
in higher education

www.trnexus.edu.au

Examples from Australian universities

Linking Teaching and Research for First Year History Students

Associate Professor Sean Brawley
University of New South Wales

Broad discipline area:

Arts and Humanities

- History

Year level:

- First year undergraduate

TRN strategy:

- Draw on personal research as you design and teach courses
- Infuse teaching with the values of researchers

Teaching and learning context:

- Large group lectures
- Assessment (assignment)
- Curriculum design

Brief description of the initiative:

This Associate Professor has taught for 12 years at his current university and in that time has taught all year levels. He is particularly supportive of the notion that teaching research links can happen at any stage of a student's university study, while acknowledging the manifestations of this can be different depending on the year level of the student. He makes the connections between research and teaching in first year history subjects in the Bachelor of Arts (History) which has typical enrolment numbers of 200 - 250 students in first year classes. Students learn how lecturers at university have roles that extend far beyond their teaching commitments. This lecturer uses his course documents and his teaching to demonstrate to students what his role entails as a historian, and how the original enquiry undertaken informs what they learn about in class. Students also read the lecturer's writings and other primary sources as part of their classes. Students' exposure to research grows throughout their degree and culminates with a research essay in honours year. The coursework component of the honours program is also related to historical research. Through their degree, students attain skills that prepare them for future work in a variety of careers. This Associate Professor also believes that by making it explicit to students how

historical research impacts on their learning, students are more engaged in their learning and develop a strong affinity for their discipline.

For further details:

Sean Brawley

University of New South Wales

s.brawley@unsw.edu.au