Week 1 Assignment.

1. Reflection on research questions presented by Hutchings vs. Dolan.

The taxonomy of SoTL questions presented by Hutchings focuses on building a foundation of knowledge. The questions of “what is?” and “what works?” generate descriptions and the means for testing classroom methods. In contrast, the more recent article by Dolan adds to these types of inquiry with investigations of context and interactions of systems.

As a beginner in this field, I feel that the taxonomy offered by Hutchings is more immediately useful for the questions that I’m currently posing. But, I am intrigued by the cross-cutting types of questions posed by Dolan. I know that I have a lot to learn about this field.

Our institution, a small community college, has recently added undergraduate research to our course offerings. I have several questions I’d like to investigate that revolve around the effect of research participation in students’ development of a scientific identity and the impact of participation in research on their academic persistence and success. I’m aware of some of the relevant literature on this subject, but I’d like to collect data for the students who are participating in our program.

1. Learned from Rowland and Myatt article.

From the Rowland and Myatt article, there are several ideas and resources that are new to me that I would like to learn more about:

* “Brown’s questions”
* Use of qualitative methods combined with quantitative methods
  + In particular, the design of studies with a small “n”
* Developing broader literature searches (beyond PubMed) for DBER – with the use of ERIC and other sources listed