

Dynamic Criteria Map

*Revised version to reflect changes discussed in article

Overview

Dynamic criteria mapping is a method to discover what a particular writing program values. In our case, it involves collecting data from instructors in the program, coding that data, and then developing a map of what is valued. You'll be making a map about your mentor and comparing it to the ones made by other students in our class to get a feel for the writing program as a whole.

Parts of the Assignment

Data Collection

For this project, you will collect multiple types of data from your mentor.

- Syllabi for two first-year writing courses (Do not code generic program policies)
- Assignment sheets for the above (Coded)
- Copy of one set of graded papers (with comments/grades. Code only end comments)
- Any rubrics or additional materials related to the graded assignment (Coded)
- An interview with your mentor (to be completed after materials have been coded, transcribe and code it as well.)

Coding

After you collect all of the teaching materials, you'll code them using **values** coding. This is a coding method that looks specifically for the values and beliefs mentioned by participants or implied in their work. Think about different types of values such as what your mentor values in student writing, in student behavior, or in course content. We'll look at examples of this in class and practice it, so you can get a sense of how to complete the coding before you begin. Also refer to our reading on value coding from Saldaña. After you have coded the teaching materials, you will complete the interview, transcribe, and code it as well. Although those codes will be combined with the codes from the teaching materials, it is important to pay attention to how they may vary for writing your introduction.

After you have coded all of your data, you will look how often each code appears. Codes that only appear once are likely not important. However, if you see a code repeated multiple times in different types of materials, it is likely a value of that instructor. For example, if you see "audience" repeated

in assignment prompts, as a topic on the syllabus/schedule, and in the grading criteria for assignments, this is probably a concept that your mentor values. Count how many times codes appear.

Mapping

Your final product will represent these re-occurring codes visually in your **Values Map**. Your map will be an infographic of your choice. You might consider dividing the infographic into categories such as: textual values, contextual values, values about students, etc. See what you think works well for the codes you have found repeatedly. Your map should also give some indication of how often a value has come up. Values that are *never* repeated may not make it to your final map. Your map will visually show which values are more frequent (and thus likely more important) than others. Refer to our readings about infographics as you decide the final form to use in representing your data.

Introduction

Accompanying your final map, you will have a **3-4 page** introduction. This will be completed after we share our maps in class. Your introduction will give a **narrative** profile of this particular instructor, their course, and what they value. It will put the map in context. How long has this instructor been teaching? How long at this institution? How does what you observed in their class inform what you found in your research? In addition, your introduction will contextualize your mentor's teaching within the writing program. What values do you see as idiosyncratic to your mentor and what values fit with the writing program as a whole? How do the materials you analyzed compare to the direct values expressed in the interview? Finally, briefly discuss why you chose the format for your map that you did and why you feel this visual best represents the data.

Submission/Grading

You will hand in your coding, your map, and your introduction on Blackboard. You should also bring your completed map to class the day before they are due for discussion.

You'll be graded on how easy to read and understand your map is as well as how specific and accurate it is based on your coding. You'll also be graded on how thoughtful your introduction, including how much context it gives for the map, and how well it explains your mentor and their values in relationship to the larger writing program. Be professional in your analysis and think through what different values mean, what it means when they conflict, and how it all fits with the larger values of the writing program.

Ultimately, this assignment is less about the final product and more about the research process. As such, I will be taking a look at your interview and coding materials as well. Be sure you are coding effectively and keeping a record of all the different codes you come up with and how many times each appears. Also, be sure to ask thoughtful interview questions and do a accurately transcribe the interview.

Note: If you share a mentor with someone else in the class, you make collaborate on the collecting of materials but not on the coding of materials or writing of the assignment. This means that you may do an interview together, but you should each come prepared with your own questions and you should transcribe and code it separately.