

EVIDENCE ASSIGNMENT WORKSHEET I (F2017)

After reading "Challenge and Support for the 21st Century: A Mixed-Methods Study of College Student Success," complete the questions below. Be sure to write in full sentences and provide detailed and specific answers.

Use the textbox below to provide a short paragraph that describes the topic and introduces the source to an uninformed reader. You might include a description of the issue and question, an explanation of the larger context, a sketch of why the question is being asked by whom, and how.

The article is about a study conducted at Southwestern University where different factors were analyzed as to how they affected student success. Success was defined as graduation and learning and the factors which would influence success were challenge and support. The hypothesis was that students that feel as though they have the right amount of challenge and support will have the highest success rates. This was proven to be correct by the study. Students that felt the most challenge, such as those who felt challenge in their cultural or gender identity along with academic challenge, succeeded the most as long as they had a support system to reach out to, such as personal relationships with fellow students or professors. As a result of the university's challenge and support environment, students experienced deeper involvement at the university and gained strong connections with their peers.

Use the textbox below to make a bibliographic citation entry for the source. (Follow MLA or **APA**).

Longerbeam, S. (2016). Challenge and Support for the 21st Century: A Mixed-Methods Study of College Student Success. *Journal of The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition*, 33-51.

What is the disciplinary framework of the researcher(s)? Is there a clear theoretical or methodological orientation articulated? What's the orientation of the publication and who is the main audience?

The main audience is university employees, such as teaching faculty, professors, and management level employees. Its orientation is in favor of a more challenging, but supportive college environment, one which encourages deeper student involvement and a more diverse student body. The orientation is in favor of the idea that challenge and support lead to student success, which is the article's thesis, and it sets out to prove the statement correct by providing both quantitative and qualitative evidence. It ties qualitative data to quantitative data and was successfully able to predict student success based on a variety of factors.

What's the main question being asked? What are the related sub-questions?

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The main question being asked is whether more challenge and support lead to greater student success, defined as larger graduation rates and more learning. Some sub-questions involve how cultural or gender identity issues at the individual level affect the students individual success.

How does the researcher try to answer the question? By which method or methods is data/information identified, collected, organized, analyzed and presented?

Information was collected through a survey that had a 42% response rate. It was organized by student ethnicity and gender identity. Further information was requested from survey participants who were successful students through interviews, but the group of 8 students willing to be interviewed no longer reflected the average student body. It was found that these 8 individuals had challenges in gender identity and ethnic identity. Also, many were first-generation college students.

What is the answer offered? What evidence is used to justify this answer? What is the significance, consequence and or related limitations of the findings?

The answer offered is that challenge and support together are correlated with student success. Of the students surveyed, the theory of challenge and support was able to predict the success of a given student at a statistically significant rate. The information used to support the theory were the survey and interviews. The findings were significant since they showed that universities should create an environment where challenge and support for students exist. A consequence of this environment existing is greater student involvement at university and the school's community. A limitation of the findings was that students were not followed beyond college to prove that they became successful in their lives after university.

Given what you've learned so far, what are strengths and weaknesses of this research? How does it relate or compare with other sources and approaches?

A strength of the research was that it used a mixture of methods, making it more credible. Although it lacked depth in both quantitative and qualitative data, since it used both and was able to connect the two, it gives more evidence than one individually would, even if it had more depth.