Starting Point: Pedagogical Resources for Teaching and Learning Economics

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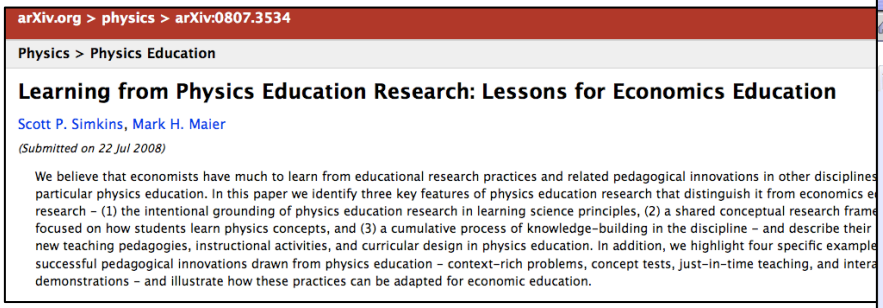
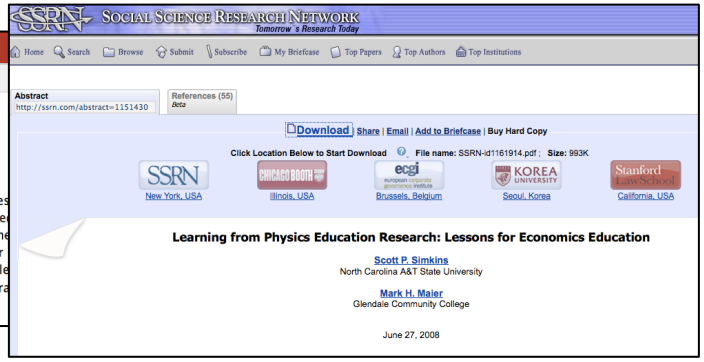
How did Starting Point get Started?

- Earlier work by Simkins and Maier
  - Focused on adapting innovations across disciplines





- Need for readily accessible, easy-to-use set of resources

What is Starting Point?

An economic pedagogic portal that seeks to:

- ***Introduce economists*** to innovative teaching strategies – within and beyond the disciplines
- ***Provide tools*** to integrate and assess research-based teaching strategies in classroom settings
- ***Promote sharing*** of teaching innovations and examples implementing these innovations

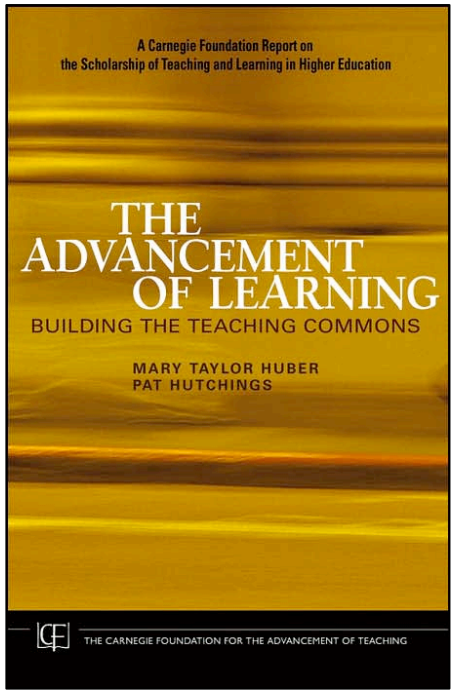
What is Starting Point?

Pedagogic Modules under development (16):

- Context-Rich Problems
- Just-in-Time Teaching
- Quantitative Writing
- Teaching with Cases
- Cooperative Learning
- Classroom Experiments
- Teaching with Computer Simulations
- Effective use of Personal Response Systems
- Interactive Demonstrations
- Undergraduate Research
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Teaching
- Service Learning
- Spreadsheets Across the Curriculum
- Documented Problem Solving
- Using Media to Enhance Teaching and Learning
- Interactive Lectures

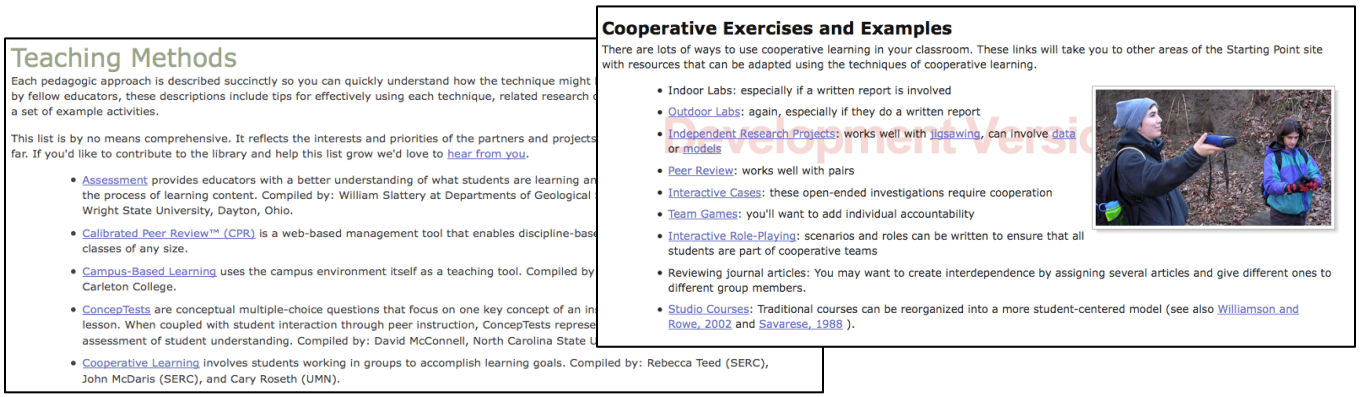
Why use Starting Point?

- Central location for comprehensive set of pedagogical resources
- Promoting the concept of a "teaching commons"



How can Instructors use Starting Point?

- Learning about specific pedagogic techniques
- Browsing the teaching examples library



Teaching Methods

Each pedagogic approach is described succinctly so you can quickly understand how the technique might
by fellow educators, these descriptions include tips for effectively using each technique, related research
a set of example activities.

This list is by no means comprehensive. It reflects the interests and priorities of the partners and projects
far. If you'd like to contribute to the library and help this list grow we'd love to hear from you.

- Assessment provides educators with a better understanding of what students are learning an
the process of learning content. Compiled by: William Slattery at Departments of Geological
Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.
- Calibrated Peer Review™ (CPR) is a web-based management tool that enables discipline-bas
classes of any size.
- Campus-Based Learning uses the campus environment itself as a teaching tool. Compiled by
Carleton College.
- ConcepTests are conceptual multiple-choice questions that focus on one key concept of an in
lesson. When coupled with student interaction through peer instruction, ConcepTests represe
assessment of student understanding. Compiled by: David McConnell, North Carolina State U
- Cooperative Learning involves students working in groups to accomplish learning goals. Compiled by: Rebecca Teed (SERC),
John McDaris (SERC), and Cary Roseth (UMN).

Cooperative Exercises and Examples

There are lots of ways to use cooperative learning in your classroom. These links will take you to other areas of the Starting Point site with resources that can be adapted using the techniques of cooperative learning.

- Indoor Labs: especially if a written report is involved
- Outdoor Labs: again, especially if they do a written report
- Independent Research Projects: works well with jigsawing, can involve data or models
- Peer Review: works well with pairs
- Interactive Cases: these open-ended investigations require cooperation
- Team Games: you'll want to add individual accountability
- Interactive Role-Playing: scenarios and roles can be written to ensure that all students are part of cooperative teams
- Reviewing journal articles: You may want to create interdependence by assigning several articles and give different ones to different group members.
- Studio Courses: Traditional courses can be reorganized into a more student-centered model (see also Williamson and Rowe, 2002 and Savarese, 1988).

What's Different about Starting Point?

- Central location for resources
- Extensive pedagogic topic coverage
- Developed in interdisciplinary teams
- Intentionally adapting innovations across disciplines
- Dynamic library of examples
- Content management system framework (modular and shareable)

Starting Point – An Example