



**OBTC 2017 at Providence College
June 14th – 17th, 2017**

SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

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1) Title, Abstract & Keywords

Title:

Bloopers and Blunders in the Classroom: Learning from our Mistakes

Abstract:

We learn as much from our mistakes as from our successes. It is the rare (we feel nonexistent) instructor who hasn't made a blooper or blunder in the classroom at some point in their career. During the session, participants will relate their darkest moments as an instructor and discuss how these can be turned into successful failures.

Keywords:

Learning from mistakes in a supportive environment

2) Teaching Implications:

This session is focused on us as educators and is more of an ontological exploration of the entirety of the person we are in the classroom.

3) Session Description and Plan:

As instructors, we all make mistakes— it is an inevitable part of learning and experimentation. Despite the best of intentions, the most careful of planning and the degree of experience, sometimes things still go terribly wrong for the instructor. Although it is natural to try to forget our bloopers and blunders, they are often the experiences that we most remember and learn from the best. While the majority of conference presentations focus on one's successes, the basic premise of this workshop is that we learn as much, if not more, from our mistakes as from our successes as instructors. In addition, we feel that it is important to develop skills in acknowledging and working with one's mistakes in ways that facilitates learning for both the instructor and students.

The primary objective of this workshop is to create a safe venue to talk about one's mistakes and to share the lessons learned from them. For example, presenters and participants might discuss how they learned to recover during the class session and how to prevent a repeat mistake. Following introductory comments, the presenters will relate their own instructional bloopers and blunders in the classroom [20 minutes]. Recognizing that focusing on one's

failures can be depressing, we will also focus on the positive and humorous aspects of our experiences. Then the workshop participants will be asked to form small groups to relate their own experiences and what they learned from them [30 minutes]. These lessons will be recorded on flip charts to be reviewed in the summary discussion [10 minutes]. In this way, we will learn not only from our own mistakes, but also from those of others in a supportive environment.

4) Application to Conference theme:

As student demographics change and technology accelerates, educators need a supportive environment of peers to explore the challenges they encounter in the classroom.

5) Unique Contribution to OBTC:

This has not been presented at nor is it under review for a different conference or publication.