



How to plan a MERLOT workshop for your faculty

Is your glass ½ full, enhance your teaching with MERLOT
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The following information is an outline of a suggested agenda, handouts, and learning activities to get your faculty started using MERLOT.

Handouts:

1. MERLOT Brochure- <http://taste.merlot.org/MERLOTBrochurev806.pdf>
2. What on Earth is a Learning Object- http://taste.merlot.org/LearnObj_flyer_v1.pdf
3. How to Become a Peer Reviewer- http://taste.merlot.org/Peer%20Review%20Flyer_06_07.pdf

Agenda

Is your glass ½ full, enhance your teaching with MERLOT
Suggested time frame -1 hr 15 minutes – 1 ½ hours

- Introductions
- MERLOT Overview and Video - <http://taste.merlot.org/marketing/video.htm>
- Navigating MERLOT (10 minutes)
- Searching through MERLOT Disciplines and Communities – MERLOT Collections
- Contributing to MERLOT
- Hands on Activity and discussion
- Become a MERLOT member
- Complete the hands-on search activity

Hands-On Activity

Scenario 1: You are a faculty member and need to leave for a conference for 3 days. Instead of giving your students a day or two off, you decided to find a resource in MERLOT and create an online learning activity for your students in your absence. Searching MERLOT, find a resource for your students and create a learning activity. After you find the resource answer the following questions:

1. List the title of the resource you found.
2. How would you integrate this resource into your curriculum? Or how would you use this resource?
3. How would you rate this resource using a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the highest?
4. Did you find MERLOT a valuable resource? Would you recommend it to a colleague? Will you use it? Why or why not?

Scenario 2: You are a support person for faculty and a colleague expresses an interest in wanting to learn more about teaching online. Specifically, they want to learn more about learning styles and instructional design techniques for online learning. Using MERLOT Community of Academic Technology Staff (CATS) or the new Teaching with Technology Portal find at least one useful resource you can pass on to your colleague and then answer the following questions

1. List the title of the resource(s) found in MERLOT.
2. How can this information be useful to faculty?
3. How would you rate this resource using on a scale from 1-5, with 5 being the highest.
4. Did you find MERLOT a valuable resource? Would you recommend it to a colleague? Will you use it? Why or why not?

Workshop Presenter Tips

During the introductions I would suggest asking your participants what discipline they teach so you can search for materials within MERLOT appropriate for their teaching situation. As long as you are logged into MERLOT you can add the materials searched for into a personal collection during the demonstration. Show the collection to your workshop participants so they can see how to share the collection with colleagues or students. When you locate a learning material I would suggest showing the peer review rating, member comments, and attached assignments if they exist. Below lists some examples I showcase as they've been peer reviewed with a rating of (5) five, include member comments and assignments:

- Virtual Chemistry Lab
- DNA from the Beginning
- Active Learning with PowerPoint
- The Cameron Balloon Factory
- The Valley of the Shadow

Once you've demonstrated the different ways to search MERLOT and showcased (1) one or (2) discipline communities, have your participants complete the hands-on search activity. I usually give them (15) fifteen minutes to work on this assignment. Upon complete, have the group discuss their MERLOT findings and overall thoughts on this resource.

Additional Resources

SUNY MERLOT TLT Tutorials:

The following link will take you to a SUNY MERLOT tutorial personal collection. Within the collection are tutorials for searching and creating a personal collection in MERLOT. I would suggest providing your workshop participants a link to the collection so they can view the tutorials at their leisure. You will need to have the flash/shockwave plug in on your computer in order to view the narrated tutorials.

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewPortfolio.htm?id=241029>

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Pirinelli:

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