

WHAT IS AND WHAT IF

(Re)Thinking Synthesis and Praxis for Portfolio Assessment in the Humanities

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2017 Presentation

The National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning

"The Art & Science (and Business) of PLA"

What is synthesis...and what if dialogism replaced it?

Hegelian/Fichteian Synthesis

This philosophical lens highlights *dialectics* and a reductionist view of knowledge that tends to support an industrial economy and more traditional models of teaching and learning.

Bakhtinian Dialogism

This philosophical lens highlights *dialogics* and an intertextual view of knowledge that tends to support an information economy and suggests that traditional models of teaching and learning are no longer sufficient.

"Dialectics was born of dialogue so as to return again to dialogue"--Bakhtin

A dialogic lens reveals that...

- All words and texts are social, creating simultaneity out of differences or intertextuality.
- Intertextuality is a form of networking, making it an exercise in creativity and a performance.
- Synthesis supports reductive thinking, and intertextuality supports **Matrix Thinking**.
- Matrix Thinking is relational thinking, and it is applicable in the classroom and the workplace.
- We live in a world of matrices (networks), and our practices should reflect this reality.

Can Matrix Thinking improve portfolio assessment in the Humanities?

2017 HORIZON REPORT

Key Trends and Challenges

- Deeper Learning Approaches
- Growing Focus on Measuring Learning
- Blended Learning Designs

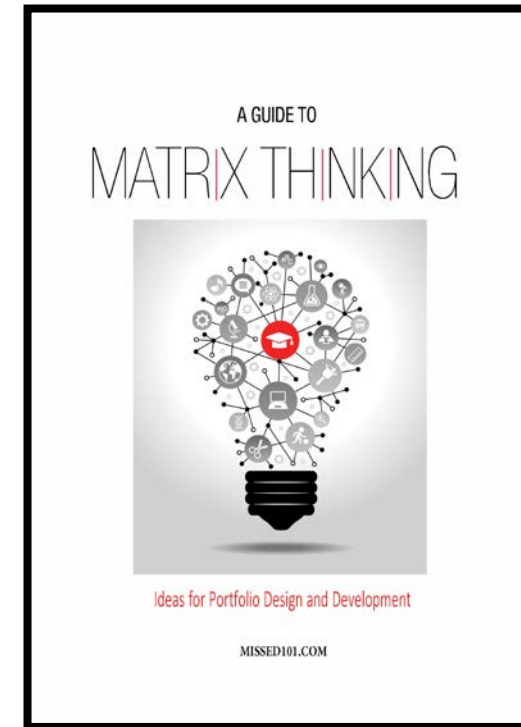
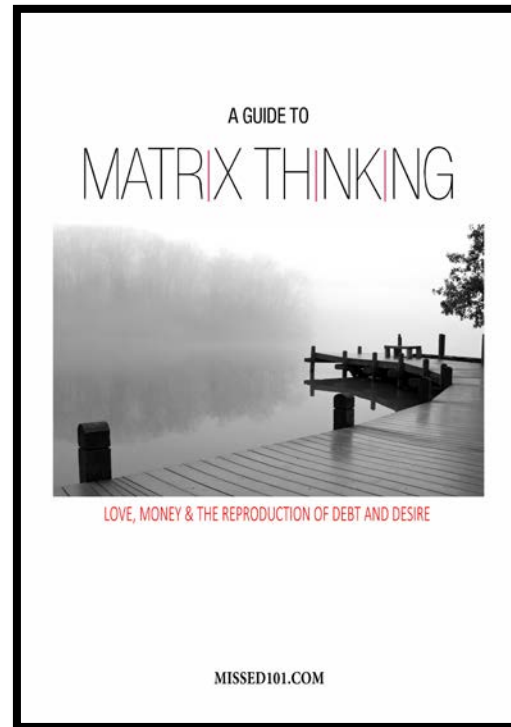
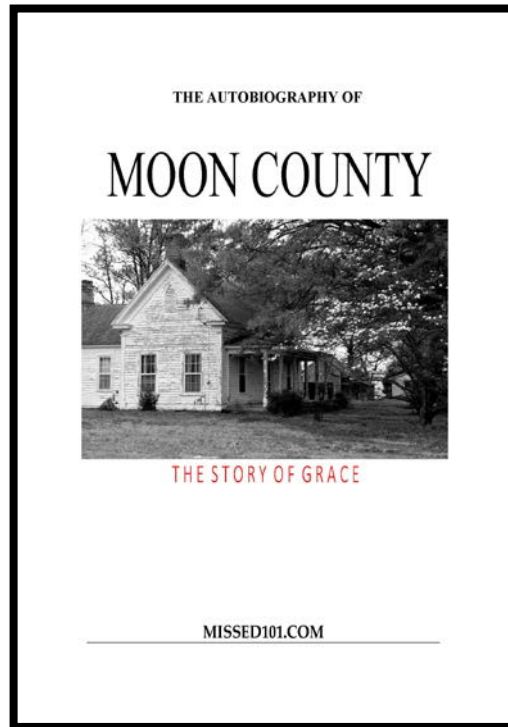
MATRIX THINKING

Key Ideas and Solutions

- Intertextuality and Interdisciplinarity
- DQP Matrix and VALUE RUBRICS
- A Virtual Model for Learning and Assessment

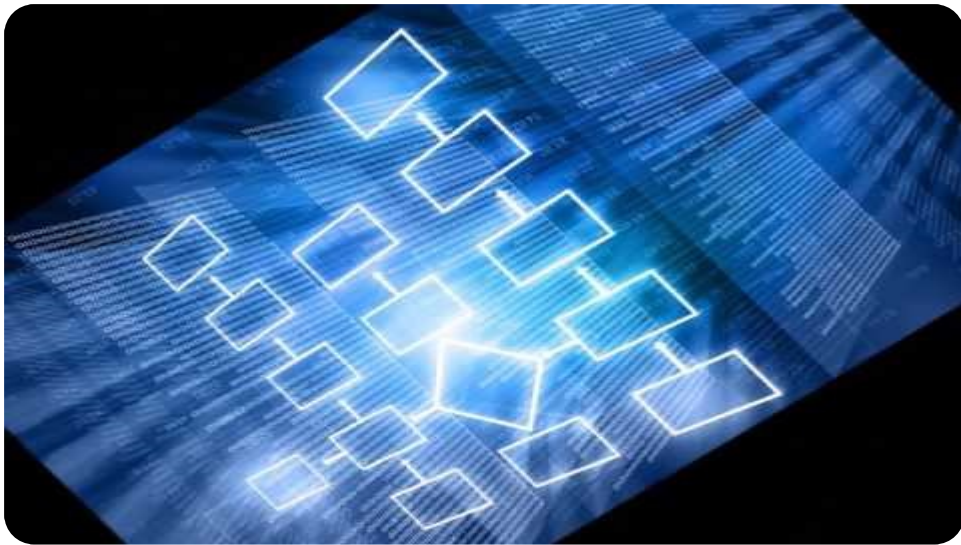
THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Connecting Prior Learning, College-Level Learning, and Assessment



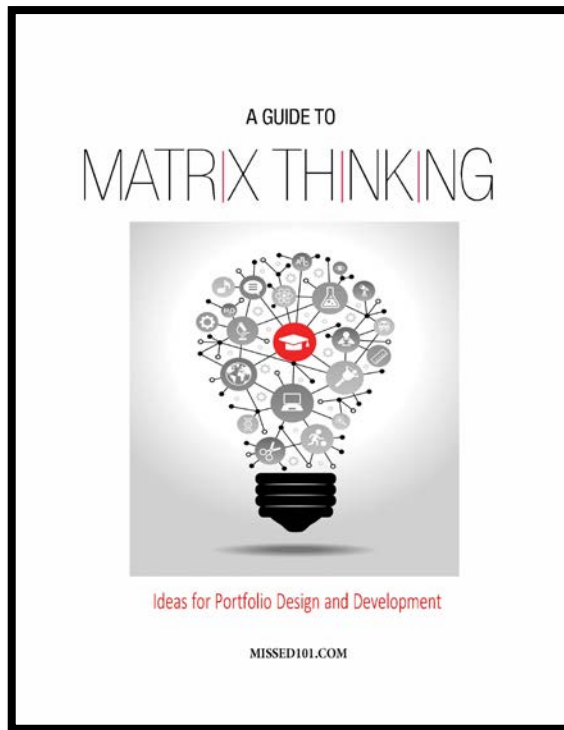
THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Connecting Matrix Thinking and Assessment



Designing a Portfolio

Development



Assessment

Portfolio Proficiency Completion Chart

Portfolio Activities	Score	Targeted Proficiencies	Rubrics
Biography and Matrix Map (ME: 101)	Score	The Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP)	Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE)
1. The Learning Log		Broad, Integrative Knowledge	Critical Thinking
2. The Resume		Writing Skills	Written Communication
3. The Personal Narrative		Writing Skills	Creative Thinking
4. The Critical Analysis Using Theory		Applied Learning	Critical Thinking
5. The Progress Report or Proposal		Applied Learning	Inquiry and Analysis
6. Annotated Bibliographies in APA		Applied Learning	Information Literacy
7. Research Paper in APA		Writing Skills	Written Communication
8. Annotated Bibliographies in MLA		Applied Learning	Information Literacy
9. Research Paper in MLA		Writing Skills	Written Communication
10. Final Progress Report		Applied Learning	Critical Thinking

Submit this chart with the final portfolio for assessment and scoring by the evaluator.

0-Insufficient F 1-Beginning D 2-Developing C 3-Proficient B 4-Exemplary A

Solutions and Benefits

A virtual classroom inspired by Matrix Thinking helps us to...

- Integrate formal and informal learning experiences by blending models and methods.
- Connect disciplines and content to reflect the interconnected nature of all knowledge.
- Personalize academic content based on a learner's prior knowledge and interests.
- Streamline the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) process for the busy adult learner.
- Create continuity of learning for adults who experience gaps in their education.
- Conceptualize scalable models that others can adopt or adapt for PLA.
- Offer PLA opportunities to everyone, anywhere, anytime.
- Cultivate self-directed learning and lifelong learning.
- Promote PLA in the Humanities.

DISCUSSION

What are some of the ways you think that we can improve portfolio assessment?

How can Matrix Thinking help you to be more successful?

What more can we do to promote PLA in the Humanities?

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