LOG – Learning Outcome Goal Examples

1. Cultural anthropology example: I will use students wearing large nametags (sister, brother, father, mother, etc) and get them to group with like types when describing each of the six major kinship types taught in cultural anthropology. I will use comparable test questions from previous years to see if any learning improvement occurred (I have results from previous years not using this interactive method of learning). Also, I will survey students after we complete that section of the course and exam to see if they thought it helped their learning.
2. Literature example: Students seem to have difficulty reading and understanding a certain text (Wuthering Heights for example). I will find a film version I like (maybe use only certain segments) and show to the class. Class will critique the film and the characters presented. Was the plot consistent with the book, etc. I would expect students to do better on the exam or paper then they have in the past. I will be very interested to assess whether the students felt it helped their learning. This is a secondary, not primary evaluation of learning gains, but students’ opinions of learning gains are also important.
3. Math example: Students seem to struggle with polynomials. I will use a short pre-test to get baseline data on what they already know, use group-work where I set up the groups to include someone who seems to get the concepts well, and evaluate future test questions against the pre-test results. Did student understanding improve? How much and for which group?
4. English composition example – All faculty teaching composition know that student struggle with the style manual (MLA for example). A short ten question pre-test on the style manual was administered in class. A group of faculty had come together and developed an online learning video and PowerPoints to “teach” the manual of style to students. A proficiency exam (online) followed the lesson. Students could retake the test as often as they needed until they achieved 85% correct. At some time in the future a post-test quiz was administered to see if students retained their knowledge and substantially changed scores from the pre-test quiz.