

Re: co-op classes

Posted by: "Nancy "

Sat Mar 19, 2011 7:06 am (PDT)

Hi –

I really looked into this a lot and have tinkered with things as I have gone along to suit our kids as well. Basically we're using Tricia's lesson plan, though using the 2008 edition of the book suggested and incorporating ideas from Cheri Frame who responded to my questions about doing a co-op class. We have used all the chapters except won't do chapter 15 as it doesn't appear it is on the CLEP test. Trisha's lesson plan is based on Dantes test, which isn't accepted at the community college locally, so we added the chapters Tricia skipped. We added a video "Modern Marvels - Computers" that was really informative about the history of computers. This wasn't on Tricia's lesson plan. I sent the first standard devient videos home with each family to watch outside of class and am starting the HTML Standard Devient video on its rounds now (we are now in chapter 11).

We've basically taken a chapter a week. If we haven't been able to meet, I had them go on to the next chapter anyway. At first I asked them to send me a couple of the exercises or practice test each week. About the third chapter I had them use their laptops and take the practice test in class. It didn't show very good. After that I told them I wanted an exercise and a practice test every day for 5 days. Test scores improved. I started offering a mini candy bar for every perfect practice test I received. That helped. What really helped, however, is when I told them they could look up answers when they were doing the daily practice tests. Two brothers got into a competition and one week the younger brother (who had never scored above 12 / 20 in a test during class) sent me 25 perfect practice tests for that chapter. The other brother (who had been doing some better with best score 17/20) sent me 16 perfect practice tests. Their mom pitched in with the candy. We did a test on that chapter in class (no open book, this one) - and the younger brother scored 20/20 and the older brother scored 19/20. Now this was just last week. This week their mom was gone and I haven't gotten any from them.

This week I got 40 perfect test scores from another student, a young lady this time. I sent all the kids an encouragement email and challenged them with what this young lady had done (though didn't mention the number done) as competition is obviously a part of the group's make-up. I told them all that after about 10 perfect scores, they aren't benefiting much from

repeating and should consider going back to previous chapters and doing the same thing for review. I sent an individual email to her and told her that was enough from the current chapter and to go back to the other chapters and she is doing so. She sent me 10 perfect test scores from chapter 1 and I am counting new perfect scores from every chapter toward the candy prize.

I also picked up some things from resale shops, etc. as prizes at the end of the class. These prizes will be distributed based on the in-class tests, how well they did what I asked on the weekly basis (1 point per week if they did the number required) and the final practice test we do as a group.

All the mom's are okay with the candy incentive, btw.

The young lady's mother found online a review test for each chapter that I haven't seen on the on-line text site and she sent me the links for them. I downloaded them and will send them to anyone that wants them (remember, 2008 book). In class, we do the review, allowing 15 minutes. I tell them to go through and fill in the answers they are sure of and then go back and work on the others. This gets them in practice for that mode for the CLEP test. I have typed up the answers on a separate page and alphabetized them to use to fill in the blanks. After the 15 minutes we go through them as a group and I give them the page number to look it up if they miss. (However, I doubt seriously that any of them are doing it.) We don't do a test every week generally, though I think I will this week as hardly anyone has sent me anything this week. Then we go over the review of the next chapter and usually we are out of time. We meet for 90 minutes once a week.

All the kids but one has a laptop they are bringing with them. The young lady's mom comes with her own laptop and does her own thing during class, but her daughter has her own (or her dad's not sure) laptop she uses during class. This mom has volunteered the use of her laptop for the one student without a laptop to take the test on so that we aren't waiting on someone to get the test completed to allow the other student to take their test. We were very lucky that so many kids had a laptop to bring to class. The practice test on the text website varies the questions so they aren't taking the same exact test each time; though after about 10 tries, there aren't any more new questions cycled in.

In a couple more weeks I will be sending out the information so everyone can get registered for practice CLEP tests at the Peterson site as well as the library in Indiana. And we have a books with tests on CD s as well as 2 paper tests we will use as well. There should be minimum 6 separate CLEP

practice tests. They will take up the entire class time to do once we get to them.

One Mom bought her daughter the 2011 version of the book, thinking that would be really helpful and spent \$45 to get it. However, she quickly then bought the 2008 version because we are using the text site and the review tests and it was harder to follow as page numbers weren't right, etc. So I would strongly discourage anyone from getting a newer version of the text you are using.

Don't mean to write a book, but wanted to really explain how we are doing it so it can help anyone else thinking about doing a co-op class - at least for the Computer test.

>Nancy