

2014 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TOPICS

1) What would a national assessment plan for Introductory Psychology entail?

Led by Regan A. R. Gurung: The APA recently approved recommendations to strengthen the Introductory Psychology course, including establishing a national assessment plan. This round table will discuss what an ideal intro psych assessment will look like, what the main learning goals are for the intro course, and the best ways to establish such assessment.

2) Self-Assessment of course content and teaching skills

Led by Alan Chan: Teachers often self-assess to identify areas for improvement, but this process is often informal and unstructured. The purpose of this round table is to (a) share specific strategies for personal reflection, evaluation, and refinement of one's own course content and teaching skills, and (b) discuss how to study the effectiveness of these strategies.

3) What can/do we do to address achievement gaps in our course?

Led by Caton Roberts: The achievement gap is alive in intro psych classes at many universities. This round table will focus on sharing ideas about assessment and creating lasting solutions.

4) How might the new Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major 2.0 be applicable to the introductory psychology course?

Led by Maureen McCarthy and Eric Landrum: The Guidelines 2.0 document provides both foundational and baccalaureate goals for psychology majors. But to what extent can some of these outcomes be cultivated in intro psych? This round table will focus on Guidelines 2.0, ideas for resources and assessment, and the intro psych course.

5) Open textbooks, open pedagogy, and open educational resources

Led by Rajiv Jhangiani: Most faculty assign traditional textbooks and rely on "disposable assignments" when teaching introductory psychology. This round table will focus on the adoption of open textbooks and open pedagogy as exciting and viable alternatives.

6) What kinds of writing opportunities have been most valuable for your students?

Led by Dana B. Narter: Many introductory psychology courses have a writing component to them. In this roundtable, we will exchange ideas about the various types of writing assignments you have found were most effective for your students' learning.

7) How can you use team-based learning to enhance student engagement and learning?

Led by Jennifer Dyer-Seymour and Ranu Sinha: Much student learning in college happens in collaboration with peers. This round table will focus on the nuts and bolts of how-to-do team-based learning in intro psychology and further how to harness its benefits to enhance student engagement.