

November 4, 2018

To Los Rios Senior Leadership Team,

I have been using Organized Binder for three semesters now. At first, I only used the binders as an organizational tool. Organized Binders played a key role in eliminating a textbook students had to purchase and replacing it with relevant and engaging articles, speeches, and other readings. Students needed a way to find the assigned articles and keep their materials in order. The daily recording of upcoming due dates is another good habit this system engenders.

I have to say that the Weekly Lifelines (B Pages) have become the most powerful component of Organized Binder. Each class session is ritualized with the “Kick-Off” to start and the Learning Log as a consistent reflective closing. Students begin and end class responding to a prompt. I ask a variety of questions related to content (i.e. “Choose a key quote from the article and explain its significance” or “Explain this concept to someone who is not in our class”) to personal (“Rate your stress level. How are you managing your self-care?”) to metacognitive reflection (“How do you feel about today’s test? How did you prepare for it? How will study for next time?”).

Organized Binder also contributes to my classroom community. Everyone has the same binder so it is an equalizer of sorts. Several students expressed that receiving a free binder made them feel cared about.

Organized Binder has been so beneficial and integral to my courses, I now can’t imagine NOT using them.

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