

## Single-Sentence Longed for Sea

Here's a helpful exercise to try out, one I call the Single-Sentence Longed for Sea.

**Step 1:** Imagine if you were charged with creating a course from scratch, one specifically designed to elicit the wild learner that resides in all your students. You can choose any aspect of your discipline, and you can incorporate other disciplines. Mull it over and see what pops.

**Step 2:** Draft, over a period of time, all the ideas that come to mind, in whatever way writing works for you. Remember the goal: eliciting students' highest energies to effect deep learning.

**Step 3:** Boil your ideas down to a single sentence, one that describes the experience in a way that includes the specific features that will elicit the wild learner. Bold the parts that will elicit your students' longing.

Here's the Single-Sentence Longed for Sea for *What's the Story?* (*WTS*):

[\*What's the Story?\* \(\*WTS\*\)](#) is a year-long, credit-bearing experience devoted to helping middle and high school students **work together across distances and differences to create and publish documentary films** that effect **positive change vis a vis issues of their choosing**.

Here's the Single-Sentence Longed for Sea for *Learning Lab VT*, an education graduate course for that Susan Hennessey and I co-designed and co-teach:

*Learning Lab VT* is a **year-long teaching practicum** that **networks educators** who **partner with their students** to conduct **classroom research re: a pressing and timely question of their choosing**, and participants **share their emerging results with each other** in order to **improve teaching and learning right now**.

These two courses put the learners' pressing questions at the center of learning. It's hard to convey how liberating and inspiring this is for students *and* instructors. Just take five minutes to read [this reflection written by a WTS student](#), who conveys the power and magic of unleashing the wild learner that resides within all of us.