

# Nightmare scenarios: resource overview

**Collection:** Small group teaching

## Learning outcomes

An enhanced sense of confidence that comes from awareness that other colleagues have tackled similar problems and survived. A prepared willingness to think through alternatives and strategies.

## Overview

This resource starts from the negative. It invites you (as a group or individually) to confront those anxieties which dog your preparation for group teaching and your experience of the classroom. On the whole, confidence is built from experience. But we can also gain confidence both from the support of our peers (and learning that others have similar experiences), and by enlarging our repertoire of ways of reacting. The outcome of these activities should take the form of an enhanced sense that 'I can cope'.

There are two sides to this kind of approach. One of course is to learn to hold on to your own sources of confidence. Your own confidence as a person, and your professional confidence as someone who knows enough about your subject and enough about teaching not to fear getting somehow horribly caught out and shown up in front of a group. This resource concentrates on reducing the fear. But we must be realistic here: many highly experienced teachers continue to feel some degree of classroom terror. And maybe they are all the better as teachers for it. Our object is to help you avoid the point at which the dread becomes debilitating, and the attempt to evade anxiety becomes self-defeating!



## Video resources

How do I deal with a hostile student who tries to catch me out?



What if no one has done the reading?



How do I deal with a passive student?



**2** | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

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How do you deal with students who have obviously cheated?



## Activities within this resource

- Facing up to nightmares: group activity
  - Comparing Notes
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## Resources in the Small group teaching collection

- Small group teaching: introduction to the collection
- Seminar design: resource overview
  - Seminar design: individual activity
  - Seminar design: group activity
- Peer reviewing a seminar: Oliver Twist : resource overview
  - Peer review: individual activity
  - Adjusting the level
- Peer reviewing a seminar: The Bonesetter's Daughter : resource overview
  - A complex dialogue
  - Negotiated authority
- Thinking about seminars: resource overview
  - Relevance and red herrings
  - Weighing up the elements
- **Nightmare scenarios: resource overview (\*you are here)**
  - Facing up to nightmares: group activity
  - Comparing notes



- Transformative writing: resource overview
  - Transformations: individual activity
  - Transformations: group activity



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