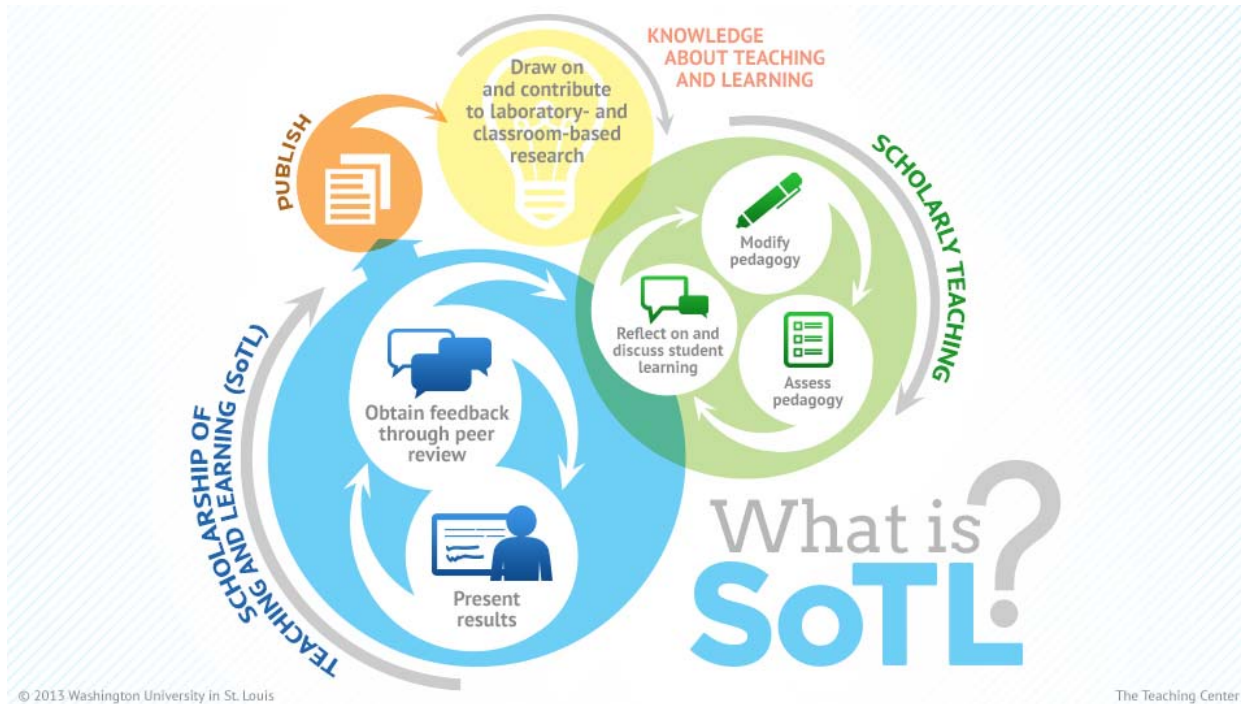


## SoTL: What is it and How it is Useful to Me?

### DEFINITIONS

The purpose of **scholarly teaching** is to affect the activity of teaching and the resulting learning, while the **scholarship of teaching** results in a formal, peer-reviewed communication in appropriate media or venues, which then becomes part of the knowledge base of teaching and learning in higher education (Richlin & Cox, 2004, p.127).



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The Teaching Center

from: <http://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/Scholarship/Pages/default.aspx>

### KEY POINTS:

- SoTL is public.
- SoTL is subject to critical review.
- SoTL is accessible.
- SoTL emphasizes learning outcomes and relevant teaching practices.
- SoTL incorporates discipline specific pedagogical knowledge and innovation.

### GENRES of SoTL (may overlap or be combined)

#### Reports:

- Preserving and sharing effective techniques from one classroom
- Before and after assessments of changes in pedagogy and practice in one classroom/course

#### Reflections:

- Sharing experience, expertise, informed by other scholarship

#### Reports in a larger context:

- Comparisons or of courses or student change over time

Research:

- Formal, experimental analyses

Synthesis and analysis:

- Summaries of prior studies, literature reviews, meta analyses

\* Evidence for SoTL can be in the form of papers, presentations, course portfolios, mentoring others, innovations in teaching, and course documents (syllabi, etc.).

### SO WHAT?

SoTL:

- offers opportunities for inquiry
- improves your teaching, your ability to reflect on teaching and learning, and focuses attention on continual assessment
- offers proof of teaching effectiveness and thoughtful reflection for evaluation and promotion activities
- *renews and inspires you as an educator*

### References:

Nelson, C. How Could I do Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Available at:  
<http://php.indiana.edu/%7Enelson1/SOTLGenres.html>

Richlin, L., & Cox., M. (2004). Developing scholarly teaching and the scholarship of teaching through faculty learning communities. *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*, 97, 127-135.

### Resources:

Vanderbilt Center for Teaching website, SoTL tutorial. Available at:  
<https://my.vanderbilt.edu/sotl/>

\* contains all elements for initiating a SoTL project and steps of the process (Getting Started, Conducting a Lit Review, Doing Ethical Research, Identifying Evidence, Planning the Project Design, Analyzing Data, Going Public, Considering Quality)