members that a student in the team is not working effectively.

Now, that enthusiasm for that perfect team assignment you created will be heightened when you form and work with the teams early in the semester.

For more ideas and feedback on working in teams, you can join us at our monthly meetings of the Focus Group on Incorporating Group Assignments in the Classroom. We will meet again in September.

**BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE**

Sandy Figueroa is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Office Technology Unit in the Business Department at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College since 1979. She also teaches as an adjunct faculty member in the Business Department of the School of Professional Studies. Professor Figueroa serves on a number of committees at Hostos. She received both her bachelor's degree and master's degree in Business Education from Hunter College. Prior to teaching at Hostos Community College, Professor Figueroa taught in high school for seven years and was the business department chairperson at St. Gabriel High School in New Rochelle for three years.

**HOSTOS READS**

Hostos Reads 2018-19: A Year of Thinking in Community by Lisa Tappeiner and Silvia Reyes

During the 2018-2019 academic year, faculty and staff from a broad range of disciplines and programs gathered to discuss the Hostos Reads! selection, How to Think: A Survival Guide for a World at Odds by Alan Jacobs. Jacobs believes that while our thinking often gets us into trouble, we can change the way we think for the better by avoiding pitfalls such as believing we can think independently, and replacing thought with popular catchphrases and keywords. But can we put these ideas into practice in our classrooms?

Discussions centered around ways to use the book in teaching and working with students. A helpful summary from the CBC radio (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) distills Jacobs’ arguments to five steps that are closely related to teaching and learning:

1. Just wait five minutes – many classroom activities such as think-pair-share and free writing operate on the principle that your thinking will be clearer and response will be better after pausing a few minutes to reflect.

2. Amplify constructive voices – this relates to how we facilitate discussion or which texts we assign to students; considering solutions is part of learning about problems.

3. Let go of the idea that you need to think for yourself – when we ask students to work in groups, we do it because good ideas arise from discussion and sharing knowledge.

4. Stop comparing conversation to warfare – how do we mediate conflict and differences of opinion in our classrooms?

5. Be fair to opposing views – how do we represent ideas in our classrooms we don't agree with? How do we educate in a context where scientific consensus is being called into question?
The book this year served as a guide for raising questions and drawing attention to the ways in which our thinking can get us into trouble, particularly in a social media environment that encourages us to respond to posts and images quickly and passionately, but not thoughtfully or compassionately. By contrast, Hostos Reads! was an opportunity for faculty and staff from different disciplines to meet each other, discuss our impressions and experiences and build a stronger community.

Winning Book 2019 - 2020

Hostos Reads Workshops

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2019</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:30pm</td>
<td>B-501</td>
<td>Hostos Reads Kickoff</td>
<td>Tappelner &amp; Reyes</td>
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<td>10/16/2019</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:30pm</td>
<td>C-559</td>
<td>Hostos Reads: Conversation Group</td>
<td>Tappelner &amp; Reyes</td>
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<td>10/28/2019</td>
<td>3:30 - 4:30pm</td>
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<td>Hostos Reads: Conversation Group</td>
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<td>Hostos Reads: Conversation Group</td>
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<td>B-501</td>
<td>Hostos Reads: Film Viewing</td>
<td>Tappelner &amp; Reyes</td>
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https://commons.hostos.cuny.edu/hostosreads