**What Works?**

Please share your ideas for improving student engagement and promoting critical thinking in your courses. If you have developed a technique or procedure or exercise that you have found effective, please describe it below.

1. Contact person: Christia Brown, Christia.brown@uky.edu
2. Type of course: Large lecture (100, core, elective) – specifically, 223
3. Learning objective addressed?

To be more aware of issues that affect children’s development

1. Description:

Writing assignment:

Go to Toys R Us and evaluate toys for encouragement of violence and gender stereotypes. Are toys that foster violent play primarily based on television programs and cartoons? Relative to aggressive toys, how many toys promote prosocial behavior? Are “masculine” toys separated from “feminine” toys? If so, to what extent do “masculine” toys emphasize violence and high activity and “feminine” toys emphasize quiet, home-based pursuits? What toys are heavily promoted at the front of the store or at the end of the aisles?

1. How performance is assessed (if applicable)?

I grade the paper for full effort (did they justify their answer, did they think through the questions), half effort, or not complete.