Sketchnotes in the Classroom: A More Visual Approach to Notetaking

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12:15 noon-1:30 p.m.
CITL Workshop Room, Wells Library E243

How do our students take notes during class? Many of them fill up pages and pages in their notebooks capturing the words that are spoken during lectures and discussions. While this form of scribing can be helpful in many ways, there are other options. Taking notes using a combination of text, drawings, diagrams, and other visual elements—a practice called sketchnoting—can help a student identify, understand, and remember key concepts discussed in class and make sense of the relationships among those concepts. In this talk, we will explore the practice of sketchnoting, discussing some of the cognitive science that supports its use and considering roles it might play in the classroom. This will most definitely be a hands-on session, so bring pen and paper. This event is part of this semester’s series on "Critical thinking and inquiry by design: Engaging students as thinkers, researchers, and writers."

Derek Bruff is director of the Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching and a senior lecturer in the Vanderbilt Department of Mathematics. As director, he oversees the Center’s programming and offerings for faculty and graduate students, helping them develop foundational teaching skills and explore new ideas in teaching and learning. He also consults regularly with campus leaders about pedagogical issues, seeking to foster a university culture that supports effective teaching. Bruff’s research interests include educational technology, visual thinking, and social pedagogies. He blogs on these topics at derekbruff.org, and his book, Teaching with Classroom Response Systems: Creating Active Learning Environments, was published by Jossey-Bass in 2009. Bruff has taught at Harvard University and has a PhD in mathematics from Vanderbilt University.