

RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

Name: Nicole Sugden, Dr Leigh Grant, Dr Jenni Greig & Amita Krautloher

Institution: Charles Sturt University

Title: Beyond the essay: E-portfolios engage diverse learners and foster academic integrity

Abstract: Biopsychology, with its extensive terminology and in-depth exploration of human anatomy, can be a daunting subject for university students. Amplifying this challenge, is Charles Sturt University's diverse student body encompassing first-in-family learners, mature age students, and students from various cultural backgrounds, including those with disabilities and neurodiversity.

Traditional assessments like multiple-choice tests and essays often fail to meet the needs of diverse students while simultaneously, posing academic integrity risks in the era of generative AI. In response, we designed an e-portfolio assessment task, which allowed students to create digital-artifacts demonstrating real-world application of their knowledge. Students could present their artefacts in any digital format. Examples include drawings (cartoons or diagrams), sculptures, audio (songs or podcasts), or explanatory videos (e.g., mock TikTok video).

Results indicated the e-portfolio assignment benefited students with higher academic and emotional support needs, while catering to different learning styles. Crucially, students perceived e-portfolio assessments as being more resistant to cheating and using generative AI. Future directions involve extending this approach into other technical subjects in Undergraduate Psychology. By changing this one thing within the Biopsychology subject, we have demonstrated the power of e-portfolios as an innovative assessment that fosters inclusivity, personalised learning, and academic integrity.