


Open that Door



Once we figured out to open the actual door – we went outside.



One group finally mastered the hula hoop challenge when a single member gave all the instructions.



Back inside. Blindfolded and making letters out of rope.





Left: Marco's *Film as Lit* class in Alaska.

Below: "Challenge by choice" exemplified in Kauai.

Above: The DuPage storm chasing course.

Right: Marco's son Peter with a Wolf



The Dartmouth College assessment team identified several distinct competencies as outcomes of experiential learning, including increasing students' confidence and ability to:

## **1. Innovate and take risks**

1. Self-efficacy: belief in one's own ability to perform well in a variety of circumstances
2. Resolve: ability to act despite uncertainty of success
3. Creativity: ability to sample ideas and retrieve or form unconventional knowledge

## **2. Solve complex problems**

1. Complex reasoning: ability to extend and refine knowledge by comparing, contrasting, abstracting
2. Incorporating perspectives: capacity to understand where others' ideas come from and negotiate/apply perspectives

## **3. Collaborate across differences**

1. Communication skills: ability to effectively convey information to others
2. Cultural intelligence: ability to function effectively in culturally diverse contexts
3. Empathy: aptitude for understanding another person's inner experiences and feelings

## **4. Think critically and reflect on learning**

1. Connecting theory to practice: competence in applying abstract ideas to connect situations
2. Reflection: capacity to intentionally explore and appraise experiences to create meaning for the benefit of learning

## Ideas for on-campus experiences:

- Unusual scheduling to create blocks of time
- Moving class for a day or two
- Creating projects for students to do outside of class
- Student experiences on their own or in groups
- Field trip to your office
- Creating on-campus conferences or events
- Workplace site visits/tours
- Finding internships and connecting students
- Providing students with volunteer opportunities
- Traditional field trips