**The problems:** (1) Grading writing projects more efficiently when you are NOT their English teacher! and (2) improving student scores on a major research project.

**How I addressed the problem:** As an adjunct professor teaching CPD 150 (Strategies for College Success), I found that the major Career Research Paper project was taking a huge amount of time to correct and the grades were weak on this major project. In Fall 2016, the average grade on this Career Research Paper was 74%, and I only could grade about 4-5 papers per hour. The papers were full APA format, 5-7 pages based on each student’s research into a career of their choosing using the Occupational Outlook Handbook and Ferguson’s Guide to Careers. They supplemented these two websites with the Kuder Journey career assessment. Students were expected to add commentary (their opinions) into their fact finding to determine if their career choice was supported by their interests, skills and values that were measured in the Kuder assessment. Additionally, they ultimately were able to choose the correct associate’s degree that matched their career selection. In turn, this helped them to successfully register for courses the next semester. As a bonus, this career research helped improve retention and persistence—two areas EMCC tracks for all CPD 150 students.

**The solution:**  CPD instructors meet mid-semester to share and discuss issues of interest in CPD instruction and curriculum. Last fall most instructors agreed that time was an issue in grading these papers. As we floated ideas around looking for solutions, one adjunct mentioned she used Prezi software to elicit basic information from her students in regards to career choices. Taking that idea, I expanded it to include ALL of the information that was used in the formal APA Career Research Paper, but put it into a Prezi format that could be submitted in Canvas online to me to simplify the grading of the project. Additionally, I used a rubric to speed my grading in Speedgrader.

I implemented this Career Prezi by choosing a Prezi template that all students would use to simply plug in their research information and commentary to this pre-selected template. I modified the Prezi template to my liking to make sure it included all of the same requirements that had been part of the written Career Research Paper. (See attachment) Students completed a Prezi tutorial as homework to learn the basics of this software package, and I spent one in-class day demonstrating the uses of Prezi and how to share and submit it to me using Canvas. At this point, students were on their own with my rubric (see attached) to guide them in putting together the research project.

**The results:** I found that I could correct 10 Career Prezis per hour, thus reducing my time 50%. Additionally, with the Career Prezi being submitted online in Canvas, I was able to view, read, offer suggestions in the comments box, and grade the Prezi using a rubric in one screen view. No longer did I have to staple a grading sheet to the paper, page through the project to score formatting, then content and mechanics, and then finally open Canvas to input the actual grade. The improvement in student scores was dramatic: Spring 2017 Career Research Prezi scores (N=41) averaged 85%--a 15% increase from Fall 2016 scores (N= 50) using the Career Research Paper format that averaged 74%.

**The take-away:** The students enjoyed creating a Prezi much more than writing a full length research paper. This was evident in the improved scores. By using a presentation-styled format like Prezi, there were fewer grammatical errors, and content/commentary was easily stated in bullet-point form. Not only did students still incorporate all the research requirements into the Prezi, they gained experience using the software that they would be using for the CPD 150 common final: a Prezi presenting their Personal Student Success Plan. It was certainly a win-win for everyone involved.