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Great VCU Bike Race Book Faculty Reflections

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## What Is Safe Cycling?

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# Reflections on the Course Process

September 30, 2015 Julie Arendt

As the class winds down, I'm working on my own reflections [similar to the assignment](#) to comment on the class. Reflecting on the process, some things went well, other things not so much. Before I see what the students thought of the class, here's how it seemed to me.

## Went Well

- Everyone contributed something. Even if the contributions weren't even (and I could tell they weren't), no one completely disappeared from the class.
- The comments that students wrote on each other's preparation assignments as they were researching sources were productive and interesting.
- Students worked independently on the project. They made the decisions about what to do and how to do it, without me making many decisions for them or hovering over their process.

## Could Have Been Better

- The timeframe for the course was too tight. The preparation work in the weeks before the bike race felt like a lot of homework for a one-credit class, but the group still did not have enough time to research the topic well.
- The class was too small for the group project to go as I had hoped. I had imagined that the students who were on campus could spend part of race week together working on the project and enjoying the race, and the students off campus could break up the project and work independently. Because the class was so small, the group was a mix of both types of students. With a mix, the group couldn't really work together. I should have reconsidered that part when I saw the small registration numbers.
- The course did not draw on students' talents and interests enough. It would have been better for Shawn to write a song or create a lesson plan, Valerie to develop a social media campaign, and Hunter to create a mathematical model of crashes than for everyone to do the same (bland) thing.
- Doing everything completely asynchronously online did not feel good. I couldn't tell how the class was going for anyone, and asking students to tell me how it was going would just add to their workload.

<https://rampages.us/bikesafety/2015/09/30/reflections-on-the-course-process/>