

Hard-Wiring for Success: Simplified Teaching and Assessment of the Mammalian Heart Dissection

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Here, the age-old exercise of mammalian heart dissection is given new life by using some common materials (colored wire and Velcro) in an innovative way. The simple methodology works effectively on a variety of levels, but mainly by increasing: i) cost-effectiveness, since it is inexpensive, re-useable, and time-saving; ii) student engagement, as challenge balances success to make it fun – particularly for groups, and the concept is expandable for more detailed projects; iii) reinforcement of concepts, since basic functional attributes of the circulatory system must be understood to complete this activity correctly; and iv) assessment, as expectations are clear and precise, problems are detected rapidly as working groups are visited, and the very same method may be used in a practicum.

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