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## In PLACE: September 8, 2017

PLACE

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# IN PLACE

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**September 8th, 2017**

*Welcome to the PLACE newsletter! We will send out bi-monthly emails during the 2017-18 academic year to keep you informed about everything PLACE-related. We'll try to keep these relatively short and focused, while also providing useful information about PLACE activities happening throughout the Linfield community and ways to bring the program into your classes.*

Want a primer on PLACE? Check out the description [here](#).

## **PLACE and What's the Big Idea?**

What's the Big Idea is a student-faculty learning community that hosts a series of discussions over dinner throughout the academic year. The meetings themselves focus on selected PLACE readings from a wide range of academic disciplines. The overarching goal of WTBI is to help students appreciate the excitement of an engaged intellectual life. WTBI also provides students and faculty with a valuable opportunity to meaningfully interact outside of the classroom. If you are a faculty member who would like to form a WTBI group, David Sumner would like to help. Please contact him by email: [dsumner@linfield.edu](mailto:dsumner@linfield.edu).

## **Spotlight On: The First Year Experience**

We are seeking ways to leverage PLACE to augment the First Year Experience and Colloquium. Our overarching objective for this year is to create a basic model that can be replicated in future years to reduce everybody's workload while providing our students with a meaningful, distinctive learning experience. Our primary learning goals for this segment of the Colloquium program are as follows:

- To familiarize first year students with the Linfield Curriculum, PLACE, and what it means to receive a liberal arts education.
- To engage students in meaningful dialogue that will facilitate their getting to know one another and the Faculty and Peer Advisors.
- To provide Faculty and Peer Advisors with the opportunity to model successful ways first year students might engage with texts, prepare for class, and engage in respectful dialogue in a classroom setting.
- To highlight the relationship between liberal arts education and civic engagement in applied contexts.

As such, rather than assigning a book over the summer, this year we are experimenting with having students read a series of short, thought-provoking articles on topics related to the PLACE theme, “The Digital Citizen.” This new programming will consist of a 3-week series of assigned readings, suggested activities, and events. A short summary follows.

### **Our PLACE Theme in the News**

As you know, this year we are using the theme of “the Digital Citizen” as a muse to explore the important relationship between the liberal arts and civic engagement.

<https://medium.com/@carlzimmer/lets-not-lose-our-minds-c5dcac29e97f>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/has-the-smartphone-destroyed-a-generation/534198/>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/09/vladimir-putin-master-of-identity-politics/539058/>

*Watch for future newsletters to learn more about PLACE events, teaching resources, and details on your PLACE Faculty/Student Fellows! Thanks for reading, and please feel free to send me questions and suggestions.*