DECODING THE DISCIPLINES:
Seven Steps to Overcome Obstacles to Learning

1. What is a bottleneck to learning in this class?
   Identify a place in the course where many students encounter obstacles (bottlenecks) to mastering the material.

2. How does an expert do these things?
   Explore in depth the steps that an expert in the field would go through to accomplish the tasks identified as a bottleneck.

3. How well are students mastering these learning tasks?
   Create forms of assessment that provide specific information about the extent of student mastery of the particular learning tasks defined in Step 2. Are there other bottlenecks?

4. What will motivate the students?
   Consider principles of student motivation that will enhance the learning environment.

5. How will students practice these skills and get feedback?
   Construct assignments, team activities, and other learning exercises that allow students to do each of the basic tasks defined above and get feedback on their mastery of that skill.

6. How can these tasks be explicitly modeled?
   Show the students the steps that an expert would complete to accomplish these tasks.

7. How can the resulting knowledge about learning be shared?
   Faculty who have gone through the first six steps share what they have learned informally with colleagues or more formally in SDLT articles and presentations.