

ALIAS Workshop  
Designing and Using Simulations in the Classroom  
ISA - Midwest  
Friday, November 8, 1:30 - 3:15 pm

Facilitator: Carolyn Shaw, Wichita State University  
15 total participants

This workshop was designed for beginners as well as instructors with experience using simulations, recognizing that although there are a number of 'off the shelf' simulations, these do not always fit with an instructor's learning objectives. Thus there is a need to be able to modify or write your own simulations for use in the classroom. The workshop began with an overview of the benefits to using role play scenarios, then moved to discussion of specific strategies to design a custom simulation. Each participant was provided with a workbook and resource materials. After the overview discussion, participants broke into four smaller working groups based on topic interests and worked to design their own simulations following the prompts in the workbook specifying learning objectives, time frame, necessary preparatory materials, role interactions, etc. At the end of the workshop, each group reported out on the progress that they made. The wrap up discussion included the opportunity to address a variety of challenges instructors face when using role playing in class.

Participants expressed an appreciation for the opportunity to discuss role playing in detail and think carefully about how to get the most out of these types of active learning exercises.