Breaking it Down and Climbing Back Up: Learning Theories & Approaches to Instruction

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Handout: bit.ly/liw2016-handout
Memorable, Meaningful, Transformative Learning

**Write**: Think of a time you your learning was memorable, meaningful, or transformative.

What did you learn? How did it happen? Who was involved? What was the environment like?
Memorable, Meaningful, Transformative Learning

Based on your experiences, make a list of the characteristics memorable, meaningful, transformative learning.

Hint - use adjectives and phrases to complete these sentences:

Memorable, meaningful, transformative learning

is: ________________.

happens when: ________________.
Memorable, Meaningful, Transformative Learning:

Relatable to your lived experiences
Experiential
Connected to your self interests and what is important to you
Can be repackaged and incorporated into your practice in other ways
Changes the way you approach something or think about something
Can’t be unlearned
Immersive
Organic and ambiguous

Brings together two universes that I never knew could overlap in any way
Reflective and metacognitive
Affirming
Memorable, Meaningful, Transformative Learning

Motivation & Encouragement
Instructor is engaging
environment is comfortable
interaction & experiential + feedback

LOVE
engaging multiple senses
the learner creates something they didn’t think they could
cultural context is included
Relevance - You can make connections to your own experience

Authenticity
Trust

Context - course work is connected to bigger picture
Tools to practice + Time to practice
You see the world in a new way.
your teacher makes time for you as an individual
challenge convention
elevate different kinds of knowledge
Fun! Surprising, novel - but in a happy way - not in a scary way - but can be in a challenging way
the teacher lays out a clear framework but still allows for self-discovery
Humor
3 Key Ideas

Active learning focuses on being **memorable**.

Social constructivism focuses on being **meaningful**.

Critical pedagogy focuses on being **transformative**.
Constructivism

We learn when we build knowledge with our concepts and experience.
Social Constructivism

(socio-constructivism)

We learn when we interact with each other to build knowledge with concepts and experience.
Social Constructivism
(socio-constructivism)
Quick Reflection

Who had trouble coming up with an example from higher education?
Quick Reflection

Who had trouble coming up with an example from higher education?

What are some of the barriers to memorable, meaningful, and transformative learning in higher education?
"Habits of thought, reading, writing, and speaking which go beneath surface meaning, first impressions, dominant myths, official pronouncements, traditional clichés, received wisdom, and mere opinions, to understand deep meanings, root causes, social contexts, ideologies, and personal consequences of any action, event, object, process, organization, experience, text, subject matter, policy, mass media, or discourse. (social justice!)

Adapted from Ira Shor, Empowering Education, 129
Micro-case studies

#1
“"I took the students directly to the Psychology LibGuide."”

#3
Student: “I’m writing a paper on financial literacy in higher education.”
Library Staff: “Great! Types ‘financial literacy’ and ‘higher education’ into a database. “Let’s see what we get.”

#2
Student: “I’m not finding anything on my topic, so I’ll just write about something else.”
Library staff: “Good idea, what’s your new topic?”

#4
“Make sure you only use scholarly sources in your papers!”
Library staff: “Does everyone have 5 articles on your topic?”

Students: “Yep. We’ve all got 5 articles that support our thesis statements.”

Library staff (thinking) *Hmmm.* We’ve still got 30 minutes. What should we do next?

One More Case Study for reflection and idea sharing after the session
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