Of Course!

Natural Critical Learning Environments

People are most likely to learn deeply when

1. They are trying to answer questions or solve problems they find intriguing, important, or beautiful;

2. They can try, fail, receive feedback, and try again before anyone makes a judgement of (grades) their work;

3. They can collaborate with other learners struggling with the same problems;

4. They can speculate even before they know anything;

5. They face repeated challenges to their existing fundamental paradigms;

6. They can get support (emotional, physical, and intellectual assistance) when they need it;

7. They care that their existing paradigms do not work;

8. They feel in control of their own learning, not manipulated;

9. They believe that their work will be considered fairly and honestly;

10. They believe that their work will matter;

11. They believe that intelligence and abilities are expandable, that if they work hard, they will get better at it;

12. They believe other people have faith in their ability to learn;

13. They believe that they can learn;

14. They have a chance to do the discipline before they fully know the discipline, learning the basic information **while** they engage in problem-solving, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and theory-making;

15. They can learn inductively rather than deductively, moving from the specific to the general rather than the general to the specific.

For more information on creating a NCLE consult Ken Bain. *What the Best College Teachers Do.* Harvard University Press, 2004, and *What the Best College Students Do.* Harvard University Press, 2012.

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