

Reflection - Class Session 11.5.12

I really like the activity we did talking about the definition of learning. I was supposed to be a behaviorist, but I clearly don't agree with that point of view completely, so it was hard to stick with it. In my small group before we split up we were sure to include something with observable behavior in our definition. That is the key difference in that behaviorism is known for. When we split up, I had to defend my definition as best I could. In the end I was actually pretty fair to the other perspectives and I think my groups final definition was spot on. It was pretty much like we were constructing our own theory of what learning was by combining behaviorism, cognitivism and social learning theory. However, if these theories all reject each other, then there is no way we could construct a working definition for what learning is. Therefore, constructivism is unneeded. That's what I think. It isn't even that clearly defined anyway. Sure, everyone constructs his or her opinion of what learning is, but it usually aligns with one of the other three theories.

I'm very glad that we didn't have to make KB for constructivism...I have no clue what I would have included! Speaking of KBs, now that I am done with all three, I think I can commit to saying that I don't believe in one theory to a tee. They all have aspects that work, and that I've used in my teaching. I'm not saying I'm a "mix" of any of them, but that I'm none of them. I'd rather claim none than claim all. I don't think that instructors have to be all one of the other. The best instructors probably use a variety of learning/teaching theories. I know I do, and I'd like to think that I'm an okay teacher:)

Let's discuss the "midterm" we had tonight. I was so stressed out while answering the questions because for some of them I felt like I wanted to argue my answer and I couldn't because I didn't have time to write everything down that I wanted to say. I ended up missing four of the questions. That's way too many. I should have gotten them all correct. I will say that some of the questions were tricky...and I assume that was done on purpose. It was also difficult after not having class for a few weeks. I felt like I was off my game a little bit. Nevertheless, I was quite relieved when the midterms were not collected. I totally understand how my former students must have felt when I gave them pop quizzes and was super serious about them and then didn't take a grade. I'm not saying that I won't continue to do that in the future, because it is fun for me and really makes my students think hard about answers, but it was so stressful!