

Discussion Board Summary

Positive Learning Environments

September 18th -28th 2014

PIDP 3250 –Instructional Strategies-Instructor Doug Mauger

Facilitators: Katrina Connell and Amie Schellenberg

Summary of Thread Titles and Statistics:

- **6 Threads**
- **21 Total Participants**
- **92 Total Replies**

Please see appendix 1 for a breakdown of the thread titles, authors and statistics.

Thread 1- “Creating and Maintaining that Positive Learning Environment.”

Key Ideas Brought Forward and Discussed:

- How little things can make a big impact on the learning environment
- The learning environment needs to be co-constructed-“It’s a two-way-street” (Brenda)
- The power of relationship
- How music can enhance or become a distraction in the learning environment
- The role of training toys
- The importance of the physical environment
- Whole Brain-Power Teaching
- The role of memory
- Building community
- How critical trust is in the learning environment

Please see appendix 2 for the links posted in this thread

Thread 2- “Positive Learning Environments”

Key Ideas Brought Forward and Discussed:

- How to establish and sustain a positive learning environment
- Classroom etiquette
- Curriculum: offering freedom and choices
- The power and role of humor/laughter
- Teaching learners how to learn
- Thinking “outside of the box”
- [The importance of the physical environment](#)
- Fostering cooperation and acceptance
- [How critical trust is in the learning environment](#)
- Importance of knowing and sharing information about the services that are available

Please see appendix 2 for the links posted in this thread

Thread 3- “Language in the Classroom and Positive Learning Environments”

Key Ideas Brought Forward and Discussed:

- The challenges of students speaking their own language in class
- The “English only” approach

Please see appendix 2 for the link posted in this thread

Thread 4- “How to Ruin the Learning Environment”

Key Ideas Brought Forward and Discussed:

- Teaching attire
- Side-chatter: strategies to prevent and stop it
- Texting and cell phone misuse
- Creating and implementing classroom rules
- Checking your understanding of situations before acting
- The impact of delivering assignments with no explanation
- Professional image
- We are all human
- [The power and role of humor/laughter](#)
- The importance of celebration
- How food and shared meals can enhance the learning environment
- Relationships on and off campus. What is appropriate and what is not
- Facebook and other social sites

Please see appendix 2 for the links posted in this thread

Thread 5- “Cell phones”

Key Ideas Brought Forward and Discussed:

- Cell phones and their negative and positive impact in the learning environment
- Banning cell phones and other technology
- Controlling the use of technology in the classroom
- Policies: Do you have one? Do they work?
- Technology and the self-directed learner
- Cell phones and other technology as positive learning tools
- Who is responsible for providing technology in the learning environment?

Please see appendix 2 for the links posted in this thread

Thread 6- “How to Kill Learners Online Experience”

Key Ideas Brought Forward and Discussed:

- How a negative online experience can impact the learner
- Suggestions on how to prevent a negative experience from occurring
- Online Instructor Training

Appendix 1

Thread Titles, Authors and Statistics:

- **Thread 1-“Creating and Maintaining that Positive Learning Environment” -**

Started by Amie Schellenberg

Note Names in order of when they first appeared on threads. Brackets indicate number of posts.

Participants = 15 :Amie (1), Avi, Doug (4), Katrina (6), Elaine (3), Danielle (2), Jolene (3), Brenda, Hongyi (2), Talisa, Robert (2), Tanya (2), Johnson, Silvia and Isabelle.

Replies = 31

- **Thread 2-“Positive Learning Environments”- Started by Katrina Connell**

Participants = 11: Katrina (7), Avi, Brenda, Johnson, Doug (4), Talisa (3), Rhonda (2), Robert, Donkrison, Isabelle and Silvia.

Replies = 23

- **Thread 3-“Language in the Classroom and Positive Learning Environments”- Started by Elaine Lai**

Participants = 1: Katrina

Replies =1

- **Thread 4-“How to Ruin the Learning Environment”- Started by Katrina Connell**

Participants = 13: Katrina (8), Doug (3), Elaine (2), Jolene (7), Silvia (3), Avi, Hongyi (4), Johnson, Brenda, Talisa, Tanya (2), Rhonda and Isabelle.

Replies = 35

- **Thread 5-“Cell Phones” – Started by Doug Mauger**

Participants = 13: Doug (6), Rhonda, Katrina (7), Glulia, Amie, Jaclyn, Jolene (2), Brenda, Talissa, Hongyi (2), Robert (2), Tanya (3) and Silvia.

Replies = 29

- **Thread 6-“How to Kill Learners Online Experience”- Started by Silvia Diblaso**

Participants = 5: Silvia, Glulia, Rhonda, Tanya and Hongyi.

Replies = 5

Appendix 2

Links to articles, sites and videos provided in thread 1: “Creating and Maintaining that Positive Learning Environment”

Creating a Positive Learning Environment

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/online-learning/articles/41064.as>

Effective Learning Environments

<http://www.lbspractitionertraining.com/pd-courses/practitioners/working-with-adult-learners/165-24-effective-learning-environments>

Creating a Community of Learners-League PDF

<http://www.league.org/gettingresults/web/p/module1.pdf>

Learning Communities at Ohio University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpKhCs5t-Ac>

An Effective Learning Environment is a Shared Responsibility

<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-professor-blog/effective-learning-environment-shared-responsibility/>

Training Toys

 training toys.pdf

How to integrate music in the classroom

<http://education.jhu.edu/PD/newhorizons/strategies/topics/Arts%20in%20Education/brewer.htm>

Does listening to Mozart really boost your brainpower?

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130107-can-mozart-boost-brainpower>

Chapter 6: The Psychology of Learning

<http://www.educause.edu/research-and-publications/books/learning-spaces/chapter-6-psychology-learning-environments>

20 Tips for Creating a Safe Learning Environment

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/20-tips-create-safe-learning-environment-rebecca-alber>

A Positive Classroom Climate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvv-URrIVFs>

Whole Brain Teaching: The Basics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBeWEgvGm2Y>

Power Teaching: 6th Grade Class, Classroom Management

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XroJtR9gQc8>

Learning and Teaching: Bloom's Taxonomy

<http://www.learningandteaching.info/learning/bloomtax.htm>

Long and Short Term Memory

<http://counseling.uchicago.edu/page/long-and-short-term-memory>

Three basic techniques in whole brain teaching

<http://www.ajarn.com/blogs/lee-lepper/three-basic-techniques-in-whole-brain-teaching/>

Power Teaching Rules: Pros and Cons

<http://forums.atozteacherstuff.com/showthread.php?t=63036>

Whole Brain Teachers of America site

http://wholebrainteaching.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=135&Itemid=105

Building Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4gDUkE14Q>

Building Trust

http://gallery.carnegiefoundation.org/collections/castl_k12/kaustin/Concept_Pages/Building_Trust/building_trust.html

How to repair a broken relationship with your students

<http://www.smartclassroommanagement.com/2012/09/15/how-to-repair-a-broken-relationship-with-your-students/>

Links to articles, sites and videos provided in thread 2- "Positive Learning Environments"

Positive Learning Environments

From the New Zealand Qualification Authority

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nqfdocs/units/doc/7115.doc>

The LBS Practitioner Training: The Learning Environment

<http://www.lbspractitionertraining.com/pd-courses/practitioners/working-with-adult-learners/101-24-the-learning-environment>

Faculty Focus-Humor in the Classroom: 40 years of research

<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-teaching-strategies/humor-in-the-classroom-40-years-of-research/>

Chapter 10: Use of humor in the classroom

https://www.uab.edu/Communicationstudies/richmond_files/Richmond%20Humor%20in%20Classroom.pdf

On Humor and Education-David Low

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzZoPcXr0no>

Memory, Learning and Emotions: the *Hippocampus*

<http://www.psycheducation.org/emotion/hippocampus.htm>

How Laughing Leads to Learning

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/jun06/learning.aspx>

Humor in School

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IrlxwBVME4Q

31 Signs you've been a Teacher Too Long

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/ashleyperez/31-signs-youve-been-a-teacher-too-long#1qioz6e>

Modern Day Classroom with the Simpsons

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z91tys7dYp4>

American Psychological Association: How laughter leads to learning

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/jun06/learning.aspx>

College Humor: Chalk-Stick Cartoons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a791SGhpArA>

The Reggio Emilia Approach

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reggio_Emilia_approach

The Physical Learning Environment

<http://www-distance.syr.edu/phylearn.html>

Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children

<http://inclusiveschools.org/together-we-learn-better-inclusive-schools-benefit-all-children/>

Creating and Sustaining an Inclusive Classroom at the College Level

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo6-1a3H5U0>

Building Trust

http://gallery.carnegiefoundation.org/collections/castl_k12/kaustin/Concept_Pages/Building_Trust/building_trust.html

How to Repair a Broken Relationship with your Student

http://gallery.carnegiefoundation.org/collections/castl_k12/kaustin/Concept_Pages/Building_Trust/building_trust.html

Quotes and References:

"A positive learning environment is one which encourages learners to achieve their potential, identifies and accommodates their individual needs and learning preferences, and deals sensitively with issues that arise within groups."

From the New Zealand Qualification Authority

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nqfdocs/units/doc/7115.doc>

"Successful learning is, after all, about teaching learners how to learn, not about teaching content to learners" (Fenwick & Parsons, 2009, p. 169).

Fenwick, T. & Parsons, J. (2009). *The Art of Evaluation: A Resource for Educators and Trainers*. Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing Inc.

"Go to a party, and meet a bunch of new people. Which faces are you going to remember? The woman who made you laugh, the man who made you feel embarrassed, and your new boss -- the ones who had an emotional impact. (Psycheducation.org, 2003)".

Psycheducation.org (On-line, 2003), Retrieved from Sept 18, 2014 <http://www.psycheducation.org/emotion/hippocampus.htm>

It is noted that by Haaensen *"that students are always motivated, not perhaps motivated to learn something, but to do something. ...it is not possible to motivate students but teachers may be able to create a learning situation, which is stimulating and attractive."* She continues *"Creating a positive learning environment enhances learning and the sessions should include exercises which give the students enough responsibility and freedom"*

Haagensen, B 2007 (Dialogue Pedagogy and Motivation. A case study in Swedish)

Link to article provided in thread 3-"Language in the Classroom and Positive Learning Environments"

Should ESL Instructors Speak Other Languages in the Classroom?

<https://www.englishclub.com/tefl-articles/other-languages-classroom.htm>

Links to articles, sites and videos provided in thread 4-"How to Ruin the Learning Environment"

Professionalism When Teaching in the Classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eghw1fAU0PM>

Should Teachers be Funny?

<http://www.natcom.org/CommCurrentsArticle.aspx?id=752>

Definition of "Tightrope"

<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/walk+a+tightrope>

LinkedIn

<http://www.linkedin.com/>

Quotes and References:

"Model appropriate behavior. Students are very sensitive to teacher's attitudes towards the school and the class in general; therefore, teachers must be extremely self-reflective, making certain that they are modeling positive behaviors for the class. Videotaping several class sessions may make teachers aware of any negative feelings they may be projecting towards their students".

Forming Positive Student-Teacher Relationships (on-line, no date avail), Retrieved on Sept 23, 2014,

<http://www.cedu.niu.edu/~shumow/itt/StudentTchrRelationships.pdf>

Links to articles, sites and videos provided in thread 5- "Cell Phones"

Banning cell phones from the class helps students focus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqHIOqKklus>

How to use cell phones in the classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpPUxsAUr8>

Board starts pilot to encourage use of handheld devices in class as teaching tools

<http://www.hdsb.ca/ParentInfo/emJan2013/Pages/Boardstartspilotprojecttoencourageuseofhandhelddevicesinclassasteachingtools.aspx>

Cell phones affect the college classroom negatively

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNekjb4o7GE>

Technology in the Classroom: A persistent distraction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPeJAF9nOhU>

How to use cell phones as learning tools

<http://www.teachhub.com/how-use-cell-phones-learning-tools>

Some schools rethink ban on cell phones

http://www.nbcnews.com/id/35063840/ns/technology_and_science-tech_and_gadgets/t/some-schools-rethink-bans-cell-phones/#.VB95FxZkyvs

Why Clay Shirky Banned Laptops, Tablets and Phones from his Classroom

<http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2014/09/why-clay-shirky-banned-laptops-tablets-and-phones-from-his-classroom/>

Poll every where

<http://www.polleverywhere.com/>

Cell Phones in School: Personally Owned Devices

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfGgRe6YBo0>

My Virtual Child

<http://www.myvirtualchild.com/>

Quotes and References:

Faculty Focus (April 2013) states "Once the instructor has a clear understanding of the potential positive or negative impact of allowing cell phone use, he or she must clearly state policies in the syllabus. If the faculty member allows phone use, he or she then must clearly state how the cell phone can be used. If no cell phone use is allowed, this too must be clearly stated and students need to know the repercussions for violating the policy. For example, if my students use their cell phones during class, they must leave class for the rest of the day. If the violation occurs

in the clinical area, they receive a formal warning. After the second warning, they are dismissed from the program".

Reference: Faculty Focus. Cell phones in the classroom. What is your policy?<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-classroom-management/cell-phones-in-the-classroom-whats-your-policy/>

Link to site provided in thread 6- "How to Kill Learners Online Experience"

Get Ready for Online Teaching

<http://moodle.vcc.ca/%20http://www.uco.edu/cece/readyonlineteaching/>