“Different Teaching Styles that Engage Students to be More Successful and Improve Retention”

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A place to begin. . .

As faculty, we want our students to do well and achieve their most heart-felt dreams, especially as this college develops its role in the Achieve the Dream initiative. Doing that will improve our college’s retention rates (Tinto, 2012). More importantly, our students then can be great and inspiring leaders. To do this, we must all be great teachers.
Great and inspiring teachers have heart

Famous scholars on teaching have said that great teachers have “heart.”


Palmer talked about the joy that he felt when his students discovered, with him, the “path way out of a thicket,” the illumination of experience by the “lightning life of the mind.”
Ken Bain (2004) said that these kinds of teachers had “remarkable success in helping their students achieve exceptional learning results. Bain also observed that these teachers touched the lives of their students and helped their students learn in ways that made a sustained, substantial, and positive influence on how they thought, acted, and felt.
Who is an inspiring teacher in your life?

Who inspired you and what did she or he do that you found so helpful?

Please take a few minutes with the people around you to recall this person.
Let’s share who that inspiring teacher was in our lives and why that person was so inspiring. Did she or he listen carefully to students because he or she cared enough to observe and listen?
What do the best teachers do?

This leads to our next phase of taking a look at what do the best teachers do to help their students learn.

Perhaps we can learn about this from Ken Bain (2004), who spent 15 years looking at the practices and thinking of the best teachers.
The best teachers

- Know “their stuff”
- Think about thinking about key concepts, such as the construction of knowledge, caring is critical, learning can be transforming
- Prepare before teaching
- Have high expectations
- Teach thoughtfully and are clear, thorough
The keepers of the dream

These teachers know that they are the keepers of the dream of academic excellence, so they are very careful in how they create a natural critical learning environment for students. These teachers continually make changes or modify their teaching so they can be an inspiring—or even more inspiring—teacher for their students. They build relationships of trust.
How do they treat their students?

- Build relationships of trust
- Share stories of their intellectual journey, ambitions, triumphs, frustrations, failures
- Are humble
Let’s look at these images on teaching and figure out what the deeper issues are from a teacher’s point of view.

(Paula Fox (2011), Heart of a Teacher video)
What specific experience do you have with this inspiring teacher? Please reflect and discuss this with the people around you. You’ll have 5 minutes.
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Her goal isn’t just to teach knowledge . . . by filling the box with more parts it’s putting the pieces together . . . to create a work of art.
The process is painfully slow at times... some need more help than others. Each child is a work in progress... with assorted shapes and colors.
First she creates a classroom . . . where the child can feel safe in school where he never feels threatened or afraid to try . . . and kindness is always the rule.
She knows that a child can achieve much more when he feels secure inside when he’s valued and loved . . . and believes in himself . . . and he has a sense of pride
What specific experience do you have with this inspiring teacher? Please reflect and discuss this with the people around you. You'll have 5 minutes.

She models and teaches good character... and respect for one another. How to focus on strengths... not weaknesses... and how to encourage each other.
She gives the child the freedom he needs . . . to make choices on his own so he learns to become more responsible . . . and is able to stand alone.
He’s taught to be strong and think for himself as his soul and spirit heal and the puzzle that’s taking shape inside . . . has a much more positive feel.
The child discovers the joy that comes from learning something new. . . and his vision grows as he begins to see all the things he can do.
A picture is formed as more pieces fit... an image of the child within with greater strength and confidence... and a belief that he can win!
All because a hero was there . . . in the HEART of a teacher who cared enabling the child to become much more . . . than he ever imagined . . . or dared
A teacher with a HEART for her children . . . knows what teaching is all about she may not have all the answers . . . but on this . . . she has no doubt
When asked which subjects she loved to teach, she answered this way and smiled . . .
“It’s not the subjects that matter . . .
When asked which subjects she loved to teach, she answered this way and smiled . . .

“It’s not the subjects that matter . . .

It’s all about teaching the CHILD”
Final Thoughts

• Based on this discussion and these video images, please share what changes you would be willing to make or modify in your teaching so that you can be an inspiring—or even more inspiring—teacher for your students?
Keepers of the Dream

Perhaps you understand that your classroom needs to be a Comfort Corner, not a “worry box,” where students can take the necessary steps toward overcoming fears by understanding what is happening and why, where students can develop competent, excellent academic skills (Novick 2-4).
Keepers of the Dream

Some Specific Suggestions

- Use media other than lecturing to explain a concept because that may help students (Silverman, 2001)
- Tell students what you’re going to tell them, tell them, and tell them what you told them (Silverman, 2001)
- Provide opportunities for students to “play” with the concepts you’re teaching them

>For more specific ideas, see the handout.<
As Elizabeth Kübler-Ross (1982) said:

As teachers, we can “weave the cloth with threads drawn” from our heart and build relationships with affection, so we can “sow seeds with tenderness and reap the harvest with joy.”
Thank you. . .

For considering different teaching styles that could engage our students to be more successful and improve retention.


Fox, P. J. *Heart of a Teacher*. CD. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDVECWcYtjc


References


References


This has been a workshop on:

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