

# Washington D.C. Conference Carousel Learning Activity

## Dr. Walker

### 1. Why is reflective thinking significant to learning?

- Assessment can become more meaningful to the student
- What will change; how is enduring
- “Ah-ha” moment
- Get o/s of comfort zone – esp. safe if using avatar (alias)
- Applies critical thinking skills
- Challenges our own answers/subjects
- Applies content to own life
- Promotes meta-cognition
- Deepens, broadens, & personalizes learning experience
- Recall & retention improves
- Because it is a skill we use now and in the future
- Transferrable – not confined to curriculum
- Personalizes education
- Promotes engagement
- Learner becomes the educator – promotes mastery
- Build on own experiences and reality

### Top 3 Answers

1. Promotes meta-cognition
2. Deepens, broadens, & personalizes learning experience
3. Learner becomes the educator – promotes mastery

### 1. How does networking with others improve understanding?

- Broadens understanding of issues – perspective
- Gives “shy” students a voice – volume
- Promotes enthusiasm – understanding
- Opens learning to diversity
- Interaction promotes thinking out loud = better learning/2 heads are better than 1
- Sheds light on our own strengths and weaknesses and challenges us to better grasp the topic
- Humans are “social”... so collaborative learning takes place (hopefully!)
- In theory... diversity improves learning but... “like” minds may not readily see value of other’s ideas
- Tests own ideas; confirms/refutes; enhances
- Eye opening – not everyone thinks our way
- Promotes accountability
- Learn from peers

### Top 3 Answers

1. Gives “shy” students a voice – volume

2. Interaction promotes thinking out loud = better learning/2 heads are better than 1
3. Tests own ideas; confirms/refutes; enhances

**2. Why should educators promote the use of technology tools like Blogs, Wikis, Voice Threads, Podcasts, etc.?**

- Because students like and may be familiar with technology
- Can be more engaging
- Unique experience
- Frees up time/uses different time
- Online anyways – works for student
- Provides professor with written discussion
- Safety for students
- Equalizer for intro/extroverts, gender, and ethnicity – is the internet colorblind (Nakayama)?
- Accountability for comments
- Potential for more thoughtful comments
- Learner-centered/constructionist approach with skillful facilitator
- Can be more efficient – avoids repetition
- Breaks up monotony
- Erase place/time boundaries
- Demonstrate understanding
- Addresses different learning styles
- Increased opportunity for peer evaluation
- 1+2 = Accessibility

**Top 3 Answers**

1. Equalizer for intro/extroverts, gender, and ethnicity – is the internet colorblind (Nakayama)?
2. Potential for more thoughtful comments?
3. Erase place/time boundaries

**4. What methods do you employ within your lessons that promote the use of critical thinking skills?**

- Service learning
- Open-ended strategies (e.g. discipline building papers)
- Integrate peer and self-evaluation
- Blogs and other social media (comment on peer postings)
- Use “messy” scenarios with no one right answer – tolerate ambiguity
- Apply concepts to real life situations
- Case studies
- Field example from personal and other examples
- Class experiments
- Students create discussion questions/case studies
- Term papers ☺
- Identify theoretical perspectives shown in popular articles

- Students present summary of paper
- Use of film, media, and song for analysis of a particular concept
- Weekly reflections/commentaries related to course content
- Journaling to learn observational skills and critical self-reflection
- Small group discussions which answer critical thinking questions
- Sticky notes
- Interview an expert
- Write life stories

### **Top 3 Answers**

1. Service learning
2. Use “messy” scenarios with no one right answer – tolerate ambiguity
3. Use of film, media, and song for analysis of a particular concept