

“The Co-Construction of Learning”

By Josh M. Beach

Learning in a school is not simply the responsibility of just the student or just the teacher: It is the responsibility of both student and teacher working together in an educational relationship. Learning is “co-constructed” by both the teacher and the student working together (Levin and Montero-Hernandez 5-7). Both build a learning experience together, and often the teacher learns from the student just as much as the student learns from the teacher (Freire 30-31). There are also many other people who help construct the student’s learning: parents, friends, pastors, bosses, writing center aides, tutors, counselors, and administrators. Many people affect the student in both large and small ways, and together this larger community helps construct and support a student’s learning. A teacher is a specific person responsible for directing the student’s learning through a specific course (Dewey 18). A teacher selects issues and books to discuss, presents materials, facilitates classes, grades assignments, conferences with the student, and helps the student learn. A student attends classes, participates during class, follows the class policies, reads the materials, asks questions, does all the assignments, and tries hard to learn. It is important to remember that education is a cooperative endeavor. It is only through equal participation that both a student and a teacher can create a learning environment. But never forget: Learning is ultimately up to the student. If a student does not participate in the learning process, no learning can ever take place.

Work Cited

Dewey, John. Experience & Education. New York: Touchstone, 1938.

Freire, Paulo. Pedagogy of Freedom: Ethics, Democracy, and Civic Courage. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1998.

Levin, John S. and Virginia Montero-Hernandez. “Redefining Community Colleges as Sites of Resistance and Co-Construction: The Case of Bakersfield College.” Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Convention. Louisville, Kentucky. 8-10 Nov. 2007.

***Please write a formal paragraph explaining the idea of the co-construction of learning: What is the co-construction of learning? What are the responsibilities of a teacher? What are the responsibilities of a student? Can learning take place if the student does not actively participate? Make sure to include all the essential parts of a good paragraph, and please write clear, grammatically correct sentences. Make sure to avoid plagiarizing. Your paragraph should not be longer than a page.*