CHARLOTTE
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

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IMMERSIVE INSIGHT: THE POWER OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

ABOUT ME

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AGENDA

01 What is Experiential Learning

02 Andragogy

03 Kolb’s Learning Cycle

04 Application

WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING????

WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING?

1. Learning in an interactive environment
2. Applying hands-on practices
3. Learning “on-site”
4. Physically practicing new material
5. Engaging in content on a personal level

WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING?

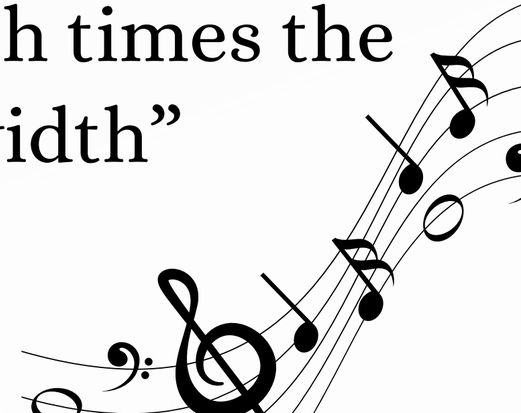
- Enhance educational experience to the next level
- Derived from the relationship between both learning and experience
- Emphasizes the importance of life experiences impacting educational outcomes.
- Embedded into almost any educational method, from coaching to tutoring.
- Working firsthand with new material has been shown to increase engagement and productivity, enhance knowledge retention, and add an enjoyable component to learning.
- Allows college students to engross themselves in content

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, IN ACTION: SCIENCE GENUIS

NOW IT`S YOUR TURN... LETS`S RAP!

- Work independently or in small groups/pairs
- ~5 minutes
- Topic examples:
  - Area and perimeter
  - Zoo animals
  - The definition of working in higher ed
- Think about mnemonic devices

"When you find perimeter, you add all sides. When you find area, you count the squares, or length times the width"



ANDRAGOGY (KNOWLES)

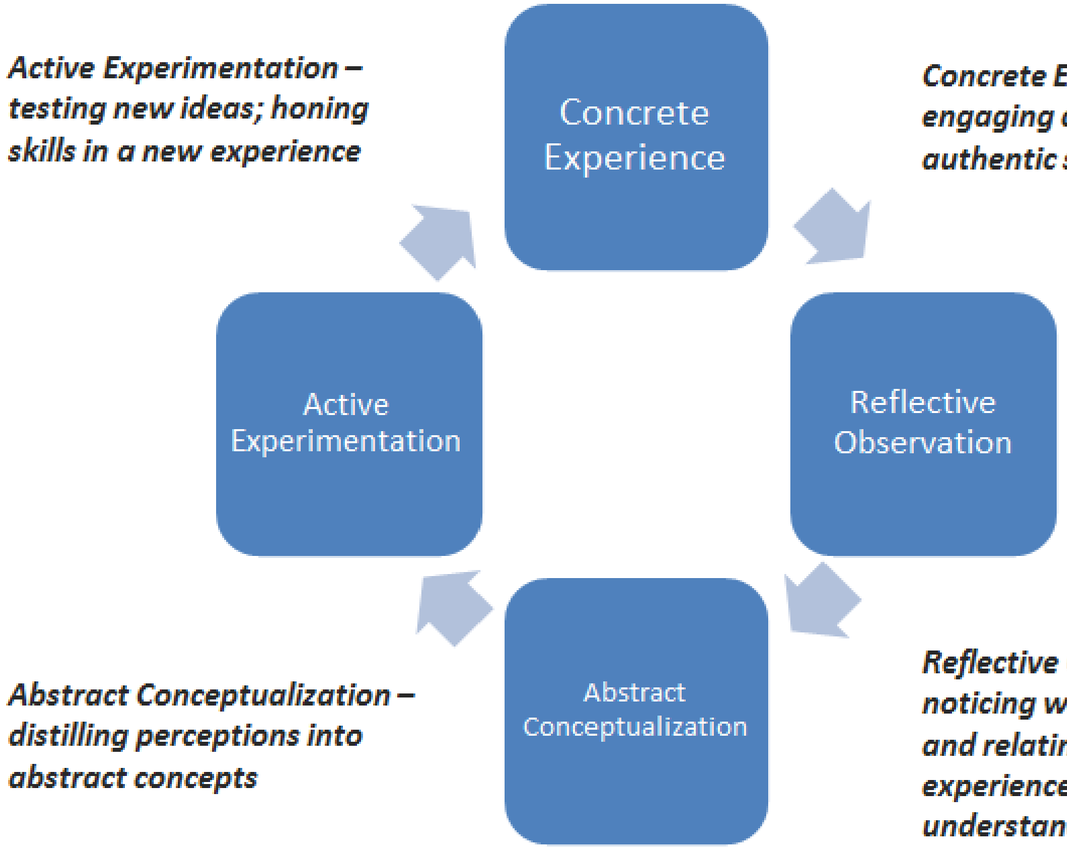
"the art and science of helping adults learn"

- adults are self-directed
- learn better with experience
- have social roles tied to education
- are problem-centered as opposed to subject-centered
- have internal motivation
- possess the desire to know "why" (Roe, 2023, para. 4)

KOLB'S LEARNING CYCLE

- Concrete experience abilities: uplift adult students to be authentic and open-minded in new experiences
- Reflective observation abilities are an important part of the learning process, allowing one to see their experiences through different lenses
- Abstract contextualizing skills supports the construction of concepts and linking them to educational theories
- Active experimentation abilities use theory knowledge to guide the students to make rational decisions (Kolb, 1984, p. 30, as cited in Merriam & Bierema, 2014).

Kolb's Cycle of Experiential Learning



Concrete Experience – engaging directly in authentic situation

Reflective Observation – noticing what happened and relating to past experience and conceptual understandings

Abstract Conceptualization – distilling perceptions into abstract concepts

Active Experimentation – testing new ideas; honing skills in a new experience

WHAT DOES EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING LOOK LIKE?

Experiences chosen for learning potential:

- Skill practice
- Encounter new situations
- Learn from mistakes and successes

Learners actively engage in:

- Questioning
- Investigating
- Experimenting
- Problem-solving
- Taking responsibility
- Being creative

Reflection during and after experiences:

- Essential for analysis and critical thinking

Engagement:

- Intellectual, emotional, social, and/or physical

Essential for analysis and critical thinking

cultivation:

- Learner to self
- Learner to others
- Learner to the world

FACILITATING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Facilitator's role is to:

- Pose problems
- set boundaries
- support learners
- provide suitable resources
- ensure physical and emotional safety
- facilitate the learning process
- Recognize and encourage opportunities for learning and engagement with challenging situations
- connections between one context and another, between theory and the experience

APPLICATION: HYPOTHETICAL CASE STUDIES

Experiential Learning in College Tutoring: Enhancing Biology Comprehension

Experiential Learning in Peer Mentoring: Maximizing On-Campus Engagement

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN COLLEGE TUTORING: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF BIOLOGY CONCEPTS

Incorporating experiential learning into Tutoring sessions can significantly improve comprehension and retention of complex subjects.

This case study explores the integration of experiential learning in a college-level biology tutoring session.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN COLLEGE TUTORING: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF BIOLOGY CONCEPTS

BACKGROUND

Sarah, a sophomore struggling with understanding cellular biology, sought tutoring assistance from John, an experienced biology tutor at the UCAE. Their objective was to reinforce Sarah's understanding of cellular biology concepts and improve her problem-solving skills.

During a scheduled tutoring session, John decided to incorporate experiential learning techniques to make cellular biology more accessible and engaging for Sarah.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN COLLEGE TUTORING: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF BIOLOGY CONCEPTS

THE TUTORING SESSION

Introduction: John started by linking cellular biology concepts to real-life examples, such as cell structures and functions within the human body.

Outcome: Improved Understanding: Experiential learning enabled Sarah to grasp cellular biology concepts more effectively by applying them practically, leading to a deeper understanding of their relevance in biological systems.

Interactive Learning: Sarah engaged in hands-on activities, such as drawing and labeling the biological system from memory. Then, used notes to complete the rest

Outcome: Enhanced Problem-Solving Skills: Through hands-on activities and scenarios, Sarah developed critical thinking skills and learned to approach biology problems with confidence.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN COLLEGE TUTORING: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF BIOLOGY CONCEPTS

THE TUTORING SESSION

Problem-Solving Scenarios: John presented Sarah with challenging biology problems, encouraging her to apply learned concepts and devise solutions.

Outcomes: Increased Engagement: The interactive nature of the session captured Sarah's interest, making cellular biology more enjoyable and accessible

Reflection and Review: Sarah reflected on her problem-solving approaches, discussed successes and challenges with John, and identified areas for further practice.

Outcomes: Positive Learning Environment: Sarah felt supported and encouraged in her learning journey, fostering independent learning thanks to John's guidance and the collaborative atmosphere during the session

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN COLLEGE TUTORING: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF BIOLOGY CONCEPTS

CONCLUSION

Experiential learning is a highly effective approach in college tutoring sessions, particularly in subjects like biology. By integrating hands-on activities and reflective discussions, tutors can create dynamic learning experiences that empower students to excel academically and develop a deeper understanding of complex biological concepts.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN PEER MENTORING: MAXIMIZING ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Peer mentoring programs offer vital support to students on campus. Incorporating experiential learning into these relationships enriches students' experiences and aids in their personal growth. This case study demonstrates the impact of experiential learning in peer mentoring sessions.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN PEER MENTORING: MAXIMIZING ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

At UNC Charlotte, Emma, a junior in biology, mentors Jake, a freshman in computer science. Their goal is to help Jake navigate campus life effectively.

During one session, Emma organized a campus tour for Jake to familiarize him with academic buildings, resources, and extracurricular opportunities.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN PEER MENTORING: MAXIMIZING ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

THE MENTORING SESSION

Preparation: Emma briefed Jake on the tour's objectives and provided him with a campus map.
Outcome: Increased Familiarity: Jake became more confident navigating campus and accessing resources.

Campus Tour: Emma guided Jake through academic buildings, libraries, and student centers, engaging him in interactive activities.
Outcome: Academic/Student Engagement: Jake expressed interest in exploring academic and extracurricular opportunities. This was further discussed in their next meeting.

Reflection: After the tour, Emma and Jake discussed their observations and Jake's impressions of campus life.
Outcome: Empowerment: Jake felt empowered to take ownership of his on-campus experience.

Overall: Personal Connection: Emma and Jake developed a strong mentor-mentee bond.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN PEER MENTORING: MAXIMIZING ON-CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

CONCLUSION

Experiential learning in peer mentoring sessions enhances on-campus engagement and fosters personal growth. This approach equips students like Jake to thrive academically and socially during their college journey.

Questions to Consider

- What resources can institutions and educators implement to practice experiential learning?
- How can experiential learning be altered to accommodate different learning styles?
- What are potential obstacles when implementing experiential learning and how can they be improved?
- What are some successful examples of experiential learning in this field?

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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND FEEDBACK IS WELCOMED!

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