

Online Class: October 8, 2019
Key Point Review
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Key points: culturally relevant responsive teaching by Loretta Hammond

Structures of the brain and how the brain functions
Links between culture and how we process

Overview: CRT and the Brain

Dimensions of equitable education - students, teachers, pedagogy, curriculum. Why is it important we get to know our students?

Connections between the way that we teach and the content that we teach: How does this interact with our students?

How do students obtain new knowledge and connect with their culture?

4 quadrants how and when students are ready to learn new content:

The four pieces of the chart need to be acting together - awareness, learning partnerships, information processes, community learning and learning environment. We can think about them independently but they need to be in sync for children to learn and become independent.

Awareness: aware of own culture and lenses we see through, and a strong sense of development. If we say we are “color blind” this is not how society works as there is a lot of racism and bias. As a white teacher I can recognize how my view and experience of the world is very different.

Learning partnerships: teachers that are culturally responsive can recognize that the brain is wired for connection. Our brains depend on building trust and community and connections with other people. It is important to develop really strong connections with students.

Information Processing: strengthen and challenge students in a responsive way, and engage in a deep level. Students need authentic and valuable experiences to push their thinking. How do we present information? What smart is and looks like can be represented in many different ways.

Community of Learning: our students need to feel emotionally, socially, and intellectually safe in order to engage in deep learning.

Culturally Responsive Brain Rules:

1. The brain seeks to minimize social threats - students need to feel safe and valued in the classroom. If students do not feel safe their brain can produce the same chemicals as being in a fighting or flight situation (neuroception)

2. Positive relationships keep our safety-threat detection in check - the brain scans for threat, oxytocin is released with positive relationships.
3. Culture guides how we process information - some cultures have learned how to communicate in a collaborative way, and others are independent. Your brain becomes hardwired based on what culture you have experienced.
4. Attention drives learning - learning isn't passive. Active engagement and conscious processing is necessary.
5. All new info must connect to the "funds of knowledge". In order to learn new content we have to connect it to prior knowledge. All different pieces of the brain have to work together.

We need to build trust!

Final Word Protocol:

The trust generator that stands out to me is Similarity of Interests - I do agree that people create a bond with theirs over things they like and dislike, among other concepts. It is easier to connect with those who not only share this type of common ground but also common experiences. For example, my oldest son struggles with social expectations and norms, and has a 1:1 to help him throughout the day. It is easy for me to connect with my paraeducator, since her sons both struggle with the same issues. We are able to openly share our positives and negatives with each other, without feeling judged by someone who doesn't experience this with their child.

Becoming a Warm Demander:

ZPD

Stimulates connections and makes them stronger

Builds trust

Authentic concern earns the right to demand