Connecting From a Distance: Using Relational-Cultural Principles to Facilitate Online Learning

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Abstract
Reflective teachers place value on relationship building and understand that growth-fostering relationships enhance the quality of students’ learning. A more diverse and multicultural student body coupled with an increasing number of courses being offered online makes relationship building even more important than ever. Attendees will be exposed to theory, tools, and methods for building growth-fostering relationships with their students in online environments in a way that promotes quality learning.

Relational-Cultural Theory
- A feminist counseling theory
- Optimal growth and learning occur in the context of growth-fostering relationships (Jordan, Kaplan, Miller, Stiver, & Surrey, 1991; Miller & Stiver, 1997; Raider-Roth, 2005; Raider-Roth, Stieha, & Hensley, 2012; Schwartz, 2013)
  - Mutual empowerment
  - Mutual empathy
  - The “five good things”
  - Reduced hierarchy, “power with”
  - “Intellectual mattering” added as substitution for “self worth” for the purposes of teaching and learning

Example: Tracking interaction with students

Example: Interacting through video (transcript)
"I just wanted to make this video for you to communicate a little bit better about your assignment, because I didn’t want this to come off as overly critical or harsh. I've downloaded your reference list and made some corrections and re-uploaded it, so please take a look at that. Everybody is where they are and have different levels of experience with different formatting styles. So I wanted to take what you did and show you how to reformat it into APA style. As you find additional articles, make sure you're formatting them the way I have here. Otherwise though, despite the problems with formatting, I have a lot of confidence that you will be able to do this. I did have to take off some significant points because it was so far off from the way APA formatting is done. But that's something that you'll be able to incorporate very quickly into the rest of your paper. The other good news is that your sources are fabulous. These are all peer-reviewed, high quality, respectable sources. I look forward to hearing more about your research question because this sounds fascinating. This is not something that I have studied myself, but I do find it interesting both personally and professionally, and I look forward to seeing where your paper ends up taking you. It looks like an interesting relevant topic, and your articles are all pretty recent for the most part. Let me know if you have any questions. Use this as a learning experience that will help you do much better on the formatting as we go."

References