The Art of Teaching and The Craft of Learning

• Dr. Jorge Aguilar-Sanchez
• Dr. Shelley Hay
• Dr. Darlene Lake
• Dr. Leslee Poulton
Who are we? In order of presentations
Dr. Leslee Poulton - Professor of French
Dr. Shelley Hay - Assistant Professor of German
Dr. Jorge Aguilar-Sánchez – Assistant Professor of Spanish
Dr. Darlene Lake – Associate Professor of Spanish
Our presentations
The Art of Survival
Vampires, Muggles, and Hobbits: Philosophy and Pop Culture
The Craft of Writing in the 21st century classroom.
Service Learning and Online Education
What link us and brought us together:
- Warnings from the Trenches (Bernstein, 2013)
- The Washback or backwash effect of standardized testing
- Art and Craft in the teaching/learning context
- Critical Thinking/Constructivism
- Online Education
The ART of writing in the 21st Century Classroom

Jorge Aguilar-Sánchez
Current State of Affairs

– No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
  • “punctuate the power of assessment in the lives of students, teachers, parents, and others with deep investments in the American Educational system.” (Jorgensen & Hoffmann, 2003)
  • “NCLB brought considerable clarity to the value, use, and importance of achievement testing of students in K-12.” (Jorgensen & Hoffmann, 2003)
Current State of Affairs

– The Washback to standardized testing
  • “the impact of a test on teaching and learning. Tests can be powerful determiners, both positively and negatively, of what happens in the classrooms” (Wall & Anderson, 1993 in Cheng, 2005)
  • “what teachers and learners do that “they not necessarily otherwise do” (Wall, 1993 in Salehi & Salehi, 2011).
Current State of Affairs

– The students
  • Focused on grades/rewards
  • Calculated risk-takers
  • The microwave generation
    – I am to be served
    – Business style orientation to education
    – Press a button and learning happens
    – There’s an app for that ;-)
Current State of Affairs

– The teachers
  • Target mostly test-taking skills
  • Overworked with testing/grading
  • Very basic knowledge of assessment
    – Sometimes, no knowledge at all
  • Usually on the receiving end of educational reform, not actual actors/actresses
  • Works in silos (by themselves)
21st Century State of Affairs

– The students
  • Focused on learning
  • REAL risk-takers
  • The CRITICAL generation
    – I am to KNOW
    – LEARNING IS NOT A BUSINESS, BUT A MUST
    – LEARNING TAKES TIME AND EFFORT
    – There MIGHT BE an app TO HELP ME LEARN
21st Century State of Affairs

- The teachers
  - Target mostly LEARNING skills
  - MANAGEABLE testing/grading
  - ADVANCED knowledge of assessment
  - ACTORS/ACTRESSES IN educational reform, not receivers
  - Professional Learning Community
21st Century State of Affairs

– RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEARNING

• “student assumption of responsibility – for the work students undertake, for the physical arrangement of the class, and for their participation in a purposeful learning community.” (Danielson, 2007)
• “a teacher is clearly setting the agenda, however, can still become a community of learners” (Danielson, 2007)
21st Century State of Affairs

– FACILITATE NOT TEACH
  • Teaching implies a transferal of knowledge. An ability we still don’t have like computers have.
  • Facilitation is when we set the necessary context for successful learning and can assess whether learning is happening or not.
    – It also implies responsibility for the changes you introduce and accountability for the outcomes.
    – It requires constant intervention in cases where learning is hindered.
21st Century Writing  
The REAL PROCESS APPROACH

• WRITING has a purpose
  – Topics that are relevant and of interest to the student (with communicative intent and long term learning).
  – We work for well edited/polished piece and not many.
  – Writing takes time and guidance.
  – Content and communication, at first, is more important than grammatical accuracy.
21st Century Writing
The REAL PROCESS APPROACH

• WRITING is a conversation
  – Feedback needs to have a real purpose for the improvement of writing.
  – Interviews and conversations with the writers are important to reach an understanding of what is being communicated
  – Peer editing must be promoted at all times.
21st Century Writing
The REAL PROCESS APPROACH

• EMPOWER the writer
  – Treat the writer with respect, it is their product anyway.
  – Learn from what they are writing about, show genuine interest.

• READING must be a must
  – Good reading habits develop good writing
21st Century Writing
The REAL PROCESS APPROACH

• PROMOTE proper style
  – Follow one publication style
  – Promote a culture of giving credit to sources
  – Show awareness of the different styles while promoting consistency

• QUALITY and not QUANTITY
  – Balance the amount of assignments, remember you are the one grading them
  – Quality over quantity is a sound approach
  – It will help you familiarize and build rapport with the writer.
21st Century Writing
The REAL PROCESS APPROACH

• Examples
  – Methods class for Teacher Preparation
    » Reflective Essays
  – Spanish Advance Grammar and Syntax
    » Research Report

• Thank you very much!
References

Bernstein, K. (2013). Warning from the Trenches. AAUP.