

PDIP 3100 Course Journal

Category One

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Category 1- “21st Century competencies include deep understanding, flexibility and the capacity to make creative connections and a range of so-called “soft skills” including good team-working.”

Objective: What have you learned from reflecting on this particular quote? What has caught your attention?

I’ve personally learned that working hard gains success, but in order to be successful you must know how, and when to use these competencies. Each situation we face in life is unique. Some situations require many of these skills, where others may only need a few. It’s up to us to understand these moments and judge what skills are needed.

This quote tells me, that people need structure in their lives. People need a path, a direction, a set of goals to follow. These competencies can be used as a guideline, to help us evaluate our own lives, and show us the skills needed to be successful in the 21st century. Personally, the quote helped me understand many of my skills, I obtained and/or lacked over the years. It started reflecting on my personality and how I communicate with others.

I believe many of us have these skills readily available. We don’t have to search for them. Our instincts will naturally help us, by selecting and applying the appropriate tools when needed.

Reflective: What did you realize about teaching as a result of this quote?

All classrooms are unique. They have different environments, tools, resources and people. As an instructor you must be flexible, creative, personable, and have a good understanding of your audience in order to succeed.

Instructing in Doha, Qatar has provided many positive experiences. It helped me become aware of the problems student's face, and understand cultural habits that affect their learning. All my students speak English as a second language. They don't study, they miss many classes and show up late every day. Without disciplinary action!

As an instructor this is a tough obstacle to overcome. It's up to me, to help them understand the importance of attending class. I have to personally connect with each student to gain trust. Classes need to be flexible, when only one students show up. Communication must be clear, consistent, and understanding. This isn't an easy task but rewarding when it all comes together.

Interpretive: What was your Aha! Moment when you read this quote? In what way(s) did this quote change your mind about being an adult educator? What was one key insight that you now have as a result of this quote?

After reading this quote, my "Aha! Moment" became real, when I connected the competencies with personal experiences. Once I related these skills to actual situations, I felt the true meaning of the quote; e.g., "to make creative connections". Last semester I asked my students to download WhatsApp on their mobile phones. I use this application, as tool for students to communicate outside the classroom. In this application, I created a group conversation, so everyone had a common place to chat, ask questions, and build relationships.

This quote didn't change my mind to become an adult educator. It made me feel more empowered to become a better educator. It provided a list of traits, which all instructors should have, or should be using while instructing.

I found the quote easy understand. It was simple, but yet it provided a lot of valuable information. The quote made me realize that all instructors should frequently evaluate themselves, to ensure they met the requirements of the 21st century. I personally feel that self-evaluations help educators understand themselves, and point out the effectiveness of their teaching.

Decisional: How has this quote and the insight you have gained from reflecting upon it, influenced your notion of teaching or how you will teach in the future?

In the future I'm going to use a checklist, which will include all the competencies listed in this quote. This checklist will be used to remind myself, the important qualities of an excellent instructor. Frequently throughout my lesson, I will briefly read over the check list, and mark off the elements that were effectively used. Then I will challenge myself, by selecting new ones to help improve the lesson.

I believe this quote is very important for all educators to understand. Instructors need to beware of these skills, as it clarifies the requirements to become valuable in today's society. I conclude that being a successful and efficient educator requires effort. If an instructor is looking for direction to improve, they must be willing to work for success. This quote provides all the tools they need to make this happen.

