George Knight's personal learning theory/model

Instructional Plan

Method

Adapt
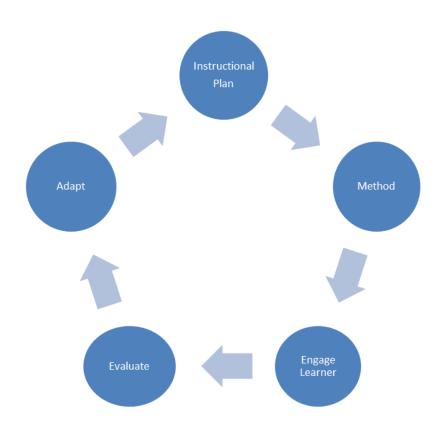
Engage Learner

Evaluate

My model seems to a combination of the Cognitivist School of Learning and the Behaviourist School of Learning. If we are doing project work I would lean towards the Cognitivist approach and for subjects that are sequential I would use more of a Behaviourist model.   Through experience and experiments, I have developed the Knight Learning Model. This model can be used in a classroom, online, or a combination of both.

 The Knight Learning Model begins with an instructional plan. The unit plan is based on the answers to the following questions. What needs to be instructed? What are the needs of the student? Is the student working from home, school, or a combination of both? What resources and constraints does the educator have? What are the prescribed learning outcomes? Once the instructor knows what needs to be taught, the next step is the method. Will the material be taught individually, or as a group? Will it be material, book, or technology based? What learning style is best suited for the student? The answers to these questions will aid in the student being engaged in his or her work. The more choices that I can give to a student, the more engaged the student will be.

Engagement would mean that the student is being productive, practicing new skills, and demonstrating that learning is taking place through formative evaluation. If learning is not taking place at the rate that is acceptable, then adjustments to the plan should occur. I try to make every effort to check whether or not the student is making personal connections with their work. Once the unit is completed, summative evaluation can take place. This summative evaluation would be used to test

whether the student met the instructional goals, but also to check if the method was useful. Evaluation should also factor in the enjoyment of learning as witnessed with on task behaviors and attitudes towards their work.

Finally, the Knight Learning Model would be adaptable. Although the model can be adapted at any time, hind sight is always the best judge. After evaluation has taken place the instructor can then decide if and what parts of the plan need to be adjusted. The new model structure could then be used for the next unit. With the new structures in place, the instructor can now start making an instructional plan.

http://www.aupress.ca/books/120146/ebook/99Z_Anderson_2008-Theory_and_Practice_of_Online_Learning.pdf