

SET Presentation Fellowship - 2023

Deb Taylor

English/Global Humanities/Women's
Studies



English 102: Argument and research culminating in an 8 to 10 page paper

The problem: disorganized thinking and practices

The intervention: reading and writing about the education system, metacognition and critical thinking



What were the strategies?



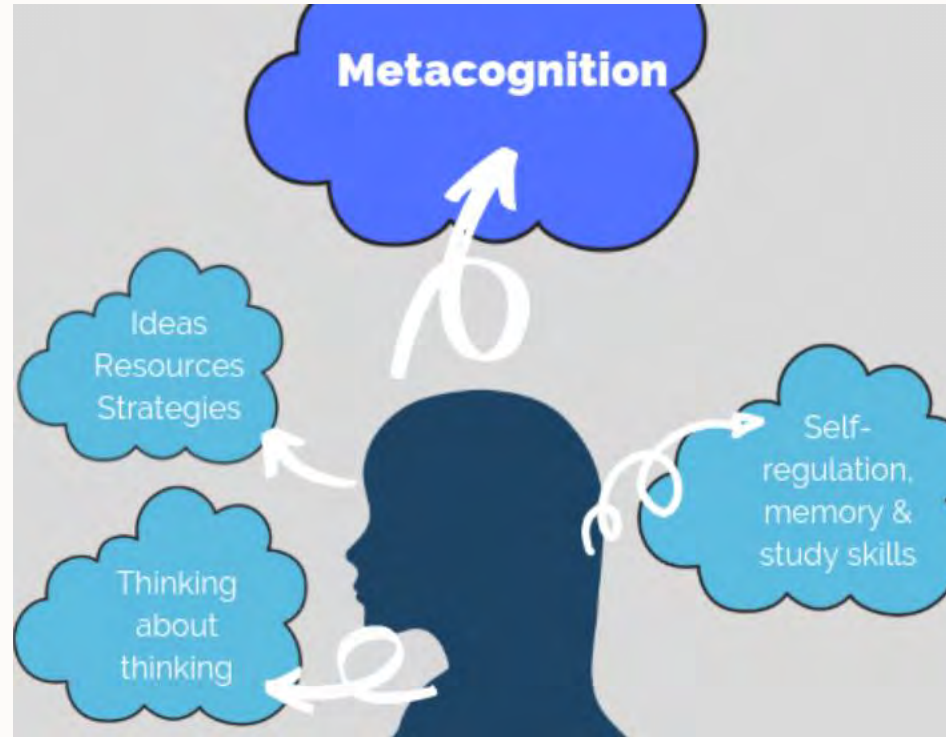
Introducing concepts of metacognition to the learning process.



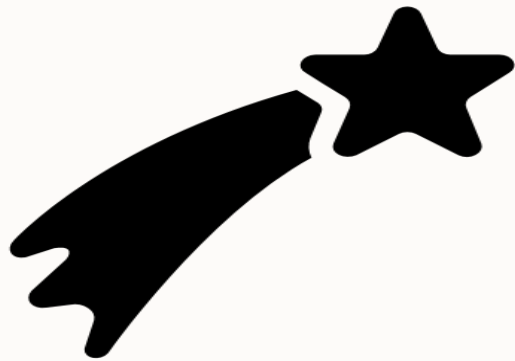
Reading and annotating and analyzing articles related to thinking and learning



Synthesizing and writing formally and informally about metacognition and the learning process.



Scholarship that influenced



Super Courses: The Future of Teaching and Learning by Ken Bain

Courses need to be

“centered around big, interesting, and often beautiful questions ... to inspire natural curiosity and authentic applications of the content.”

“provide students with a sense of meaningful control over their own learning.”

“lead(s) students to foster a growth mindset.”

How can I make my class a super course?

I/teachers need to inspire students to reflect wherever they are.

Students need to learn about their thinking to become better global citizens!

Steps!
Reading
Annotating
Analyzing
Reflecting.
Re-reading
Reflecting
Talking



Scholarship about education and cognitive processes for students

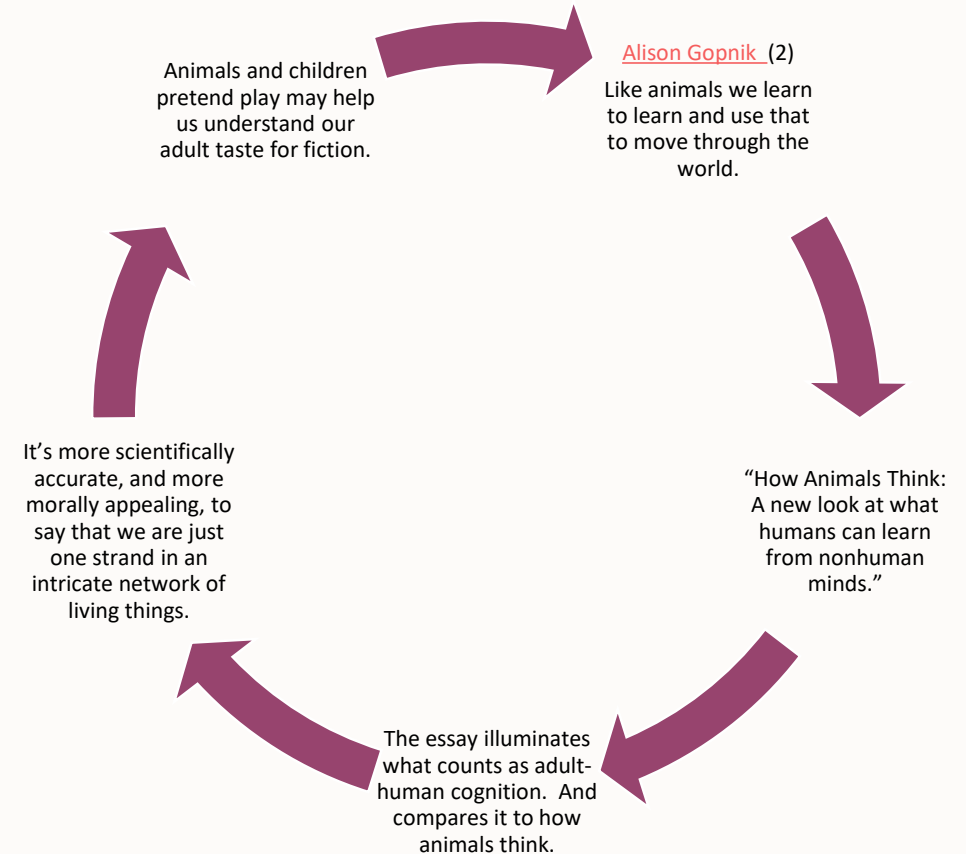
The assignment: Students read two articles about the construction of the education system and metacognition.

[Sanjay Sarma and Luke Yoquinto](#) (1)

"The Toyota Corolla Theory of Higher Education" advocates for a more personalized approach to higher education, akin to designing a car to individual specifications.

It argues: Standardization stinks for learning and curiosity

That the system of comparing students is crap because it infringes of self-reflective learning



- 3 concrete practical articles to shape student metacognition

[“Learning How to Learn Could Be a Student’s Most Valuable Skill”](#)

[“Better Ways to Learn”](#)

[“There Are Better Ways to Study That Will Last You a Lifetime”](#)





WRITTEN



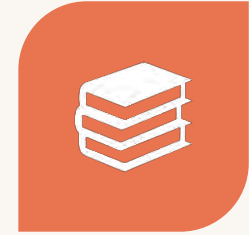
ORAL



DISCUSSION



PAPERS

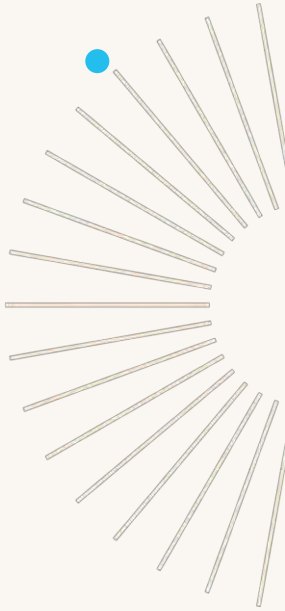


JOURNALS

Assessment – formal and informal

Challenges

- It's hard to be mindful, aware of critical thinking
- Students need many opportunities to think about their thinking.
- Informal and formal methods of reflection are needed weekly not just once or twice over the semester.
- Consistency builds brain power.



Positives




To figure out if it worked – I asked students what they thought...

I plan to use these tactics in my work and life. I need them so I can be clear on not just my school-work, but also future work like filling taxes and so on. Especially if I plan on becoming a nurse; I need to do a good job on taking notes and explaining in a clear and detailed way.

After learning about the various distinct ways to study I have applied some of these tactics in my other classes. Before, I'd designate 3 hours per day for full focusing studying. But after learning about interval learning/spacing I have applied this tactic and have been able to retain more information.

I do intend to use these tactics in the future because learning is a perpetual thing. Being stagnant in learning leads our brains to not be in a constant state of development.

I already brought up some of these ideas about learning in my Psych class. My grades have improved a lot because of my learning about the learning process





I do plan to implement these tactics in the future whenever I might need them or see them fit my learning situation(s). When I read about these tactics, I did find them very interesting and intriguing. And because of their positive outcomes, I feel like I will try them all out eventually. I also found it intriguing how I have never even heard of some of these tactics before, but the mere fact that they exist, and they are possible is more than just enough.

Lessons learned...

- REFLECTION Self reflection opportunities needed weekly.
 - CURIOSITY Get students to see this is about learning for life.
 - MINDFULNESS Awareness
-
- “We want them to enter the world not as drones participating mindlessly in activities they’ve been assigned, but as thinking, deliberative beings who add something to society”
 - *(Creating Wicked Students)*

The room where we get students to think doesn't matter – it's the view and mindfulness that counts...

- The disorder that turns to order is part of self-reflection
- Metacognition creates a way to sense order
- Having time to reflect – leads to growth
- Our growth leads to a community of learners represented by these trees in a landscape of change



Grateful and thankful for SET

- Thanks to Joan Naake for her leadership and guidance
- READINGS!
- Colleagues for their thoughtful and meaningful discussion
- Interested in continuing the conversation?

