

Changing Perspectives on Learning and Teaching

1. All learning, except for simple rote memorization, requires the learner to actively construct meaning.
2. Students' prior understandings of and thoughts about a topic or concept before instruction exert a tremendous influence on what they learn during instruction.
3. The teacher's primary goal is to generate a change in the learner's cognitive structure or way of viewing and organizing the world.
4. Because learning is a process of active construction by the learner, the teacher cannot do the work of learning.
5. Learning in cooperation with others is an important source of motivation, support, modeling, and coaching.
6. Content-specific learning and thinking strategies play a much more important role in learning than was previously recognized.