Foundations for Change: Using Experiential Education as a Tool for Student Learning (Session #27 – PR)
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RESEARCH QUESTIONS
1. How might “change” appear when it occurs as detected by analyzing students’ formal written reports as well as their responses in journals, interviews, and questionnaires?
2. How does the reflective writing used in an experiential learning course influence students’ views of the world, of their learning and/or knowledge, and of themselves?
3. What are the factors that could facilitate or interfere with the creation of “change” in an experiential learning environment?

RESULTS

Figure 1: Model of Change in Students during a Semester

Figure 2: Detailed Model of Change in Students during a Semester
Results Continued: Breaking Down the Model

**COURSE-BASED CONDITIONS**
- Instructional Activities
- Assignments
- Mentoring
- Time
- Service-Learning
- Reflection

**INDIVIDUALLY-BASED CONDITIONS**
- Motivation/incentive
- Interest
- Perceptions of the professor
- Experience/Ability
- Writing Self-efficacy
- Practice

**SKILL-BASED LEARNING**
- Internalize core concepts
- Acquire general skills
- “Produce marketable writing”
- “Improve knowledge of writing process”

**CONCEPTUAL AWARENESS & COMPREHENSION**
- Integrate learning
- Offer comparisons between concepts
- Generalize the learning beyond the classroom
- Recognize how and why to “tailor the product to the audience”
- Produce writing “on a variety of levels”

**TRANSFORMATION**
- Physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual change in: ideas, attitude, beliefs, feelings, behavior, and “manner of being”
- Results “improve me as a person”; change of self or values
- Produces new insights and “awareness of difference”
- Change is “radical”, “dramatic”, or “profound”
- Often a “difficult” process that requires persistence
- Self-reported “permanent” results
- Impacts abstract concepts of self, including self-confidence, self-worth, and self-realization

**EFFECTS OF CHANGE WITHIN STUDENTS**
- Mastery of Skills
- Mastery of Genre
- Mastery of Process
- Enhanced Integration
- Confidence
- Personal Insight

**EFFECTS OF CHANGE WITHIN TEXT**
- Achievement
- Ranked Achievement
- Conceptualization

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