

Characteristics of Memorable Learning Experiences

Learning is deepest when:

I. The learning task is authentic and connected to life beyond the school or classroom:

- a Invested
- b Meaningful
- c Real world application
- d Practical application

- e Purposefulness
- f Impact on the community
- g Authentic but fluid

II. Students have ownership and agency concerning their learning process

- a Student ownership
- b Giving learner his/her own pathway
- c Self-directed
- d Student choice
- e Teaching or leading others
- f Gradual release of responsibility
- g Educator giving up control
- h Learner gaining control
- i Sense of empowerment and accomplishment

Learning is deepest when:

III. Outcomes are clear, challenging, and attainable for the learner

- a Personal challenge
- b Clear expectations
- c Vision for end product

IV. The learning process is valued as well as the final outcome attained through the process

- a Ability to repeat what you have learned
- b Grit (failure leading to success)
- c Making mistakes along the way
- d Permission to fail (and grow) because you could do over
- e Practice

V. Students have support and are expected to engage in learning even as the expectations are challenging

- a Willingness to take risk
- b Open-mindedness of learner
- c Right time, right place
- d One-to-one learning
- e Availability of resources
- f "It mattered"
- g Low floor, high ceiling
- h Significant consequences for not learning
- i Propelled by morals and values
- j Safe environment

Learning is deepest when:

VI. Learning takes place within a supportive community of learners

- a Having community of learners

VII. The activities and outcomes are personally valuable to the learner

- a Strong emotional experience
- b Transferable skills
- c Personal change in perspective
- d Changes lens in learning new things
- e Personally important outcome (high stakes)

VIII. The teacher guides and supports the student to engage in the learning process

- a Level of expertise of instructor
- b Caring invested role model
- c Scaffolding on previous learning
- d Feedback along the way
- e Importance of the person guiding the learning