

THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS HELPFUL INFORMATION

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OUR SPEAKER

Ruth Pflueger is the director of the Learning Resource Center. She and her department provide tutoring options to help out the students of Behrend. The tutors are usually students majoring in the field they provide help with.

COLLEGE VERSUS HIGH SCHOOL

Our speaker pointed out the biggest difference between high school and college was the amount of time spent in class. Classes in college usually take about one-third less time. Due to this, students should make up the other two-thirds at home. Studying and homework are at least two hours for every one hour in class. I feel that this is good advice. Studying is very important to succeeding, but I do not think it should be two hours for every hour of class. I study for as long as it takes me to understand. Students need to find out how long they should study on their own. While there is not a problem of over studying, some people may study too little if they stick to the two-to-one ratio. Another helpful thing she said was that college has tutors. Tutors are there to help teach others how to study. Tutors are usually studying within the subject they help with. I think tutors are a great help for college.

Ruth Pflueger also pointed out that teachers in high school are very different from college professors. She said that high school teachers have degrees in education. They are taught how to teach. Because of that, high school homework is reinforcement of what was taught in class. I find that to be true. Homework was always repetition. She also stated that college professors are professionals in their field. They show students what they know. The homework is designed to teach more, not reinforce. My homework in college so far sticks to that fact. It is more lessons that we are supposed to teach to ourselves. It helps us to get ready for the real world where new things will come about. We will not have teachers then; we will have our skills to teach us the new techniques and processes. That is why I agree with her when she says “college teaches us how to think.”

LEVELS OF CRITICAL THINKING

The levels of critical thinking are (in order): recall, comprehension, application, analysis, evaluation and synthesis. Recall is memorizing a pattern to get to a solution. Comprehension is knowing why that pattern works while application is using the pattern in examples. Picking apart the whole process and working on each part individually is analysis. To evaluate, a person must use analysis to pick apart and decide how well each part works. The final step, synthesis, is when a person can reapply everything they know to new problems. They can switch parts around or use the process as a whole to complete their work. I like this explanation of learning. It goes in

levels of increasing difficulty to show how the mind works. The mind cannot start at synthesis if it does not know a process to get the desired result.

ABSTRACT VERSUS DETAILS

The last subject our speaker talked about was abstract versus details. She used the example of “dog.” She said, “You cannot pet dog. You cannot train dog.” Dog was not available to do these things because dog is a category. A single dog, like a Papillion, can be pet, trained and bathed. That is what is known as a detail. She made a point of saying that lessons in school are abstract. Details are where learning lies. I believe this statement is true. Ideas are good and all, but in order to apply them, details are needed.

CONCLUSION

I found this speech to be very interesting. I liked the advice that was given and the descriptions of the levels of critical thinking. It helped to know how I was going to have to deal with studying from now on. I have realized that I needed to work more outside class than I did in high school. It is because I need to do the recall and reinforcement by myself. The professor tells us what it is; the homework gives us more information on the subject. My notes help me to reinforce by rereading, example problems and highlighting main points. I now know that the tutors can help me learn how to study so I can get the most out of my education. Another helpful service with tutors is that they can reinforce and help teach a student to reinforce for themselves. All in all, this speech was helpful to me. I hope my other classmates got as much out of it as I did. If they did not, it was because they were not listening. She gave a huge array of information.