Tommy Gober  
EDUC4343

Cooper Reflection

Summary

Today in class we discussed Building Background. What this means exactly was not known at first. Our learning activities centered around building meaning about what “Building Background” really means. We discovered that context is key. The various uses of any given word in English can be highly confusing if no context is given.

Mrs. Cooper reviewed with us the importance of scaffolding and just what that means. She also explained how relevance is highly important if we are to make information “stick”. We must constantly strive to actively engage students.

Reflection

One thing that Mrs. Cooper explained in her lecture, that I could not agree with more, is the notion that students are living in a new world of information where they no longer must memorize long lists of facts. Students need not concern themselves with remembering facts; they need only remember *where* to find such information. The educational landscape has changed drastically and we, as teachers, must alter our expectations and assumptions to fit the new reality. Students live in an information rich, connected society; educators are there to guide the learning process and monitor growth. Again, this goes back to a neo-Montessori style learning that I’ve been thinking about for several years. Students can be self-led. Their curiosity will fuel their desire for learning if we can make their lessons relevant and give them the resources they need to explore their ideas adequately.

Reaction

Mrs. Cooper said we must get to know our students. We must know their experiences. This is vital to making learning *real* to them. We have to understand their worldview. We need to consider what is important to them and how to link their perception of importance with our own. This is not to say their “importance” is right or that our “importance” must be altered to fit their outlook. No, teachers must be creative in figuring out how to bridge the gap between the two.

Questions

I would like to ask Mrs. Cooper her ideas on how to lead exploratory learning in a computer lab setting. What activities do you plan for students to allow them the ability to freely search and explore the web for educational activities that excite and nurture their understanding?