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Writing 120

14 November 2019

### Transformative Learning Outside the Classroom Setting

There are many opportunities for students to learn both in and out of the classroom, but whether they do so or not is up to them. Most students here at WCU have a lot more time on their hands outside of class, it just depends if they utilize that time or not into transformative learning. In Walker Percy's work of "The Loss of the Creature," he explains that in order to learn more you need to kind of put yourself in someone else's shoes. This will allow you to gain the experience that you need to pursue the future endeavor that you decide to go about on. The problem is that students often do not use their time to the best of their ability. Time, especially in college is one of the most, if not the most valuable things that students should utilize. The teachers provide the students with information that they expect the students to learn the entirety of. Students do have time to get all their work done efficiently. Whether its learning by yourself, or with a group, outside of the classroom learning is very important. It allows you to gain your own personal experience. Utilizing the sources on campus during free time is always a good thing that students can do as well. For transformative learning to take place outside of the classroom students can form study groups to do homework with, utilize Khan academy or another online resource, develop a daily reflection to maximize the learning that is done, as well as engaging in the community.

In order to gain a learning experience outside of the classroom you simply must put yourself out there. Do not be afraid to go up to other people and introduce yourself. This is a necessity to learn outside of the classroom. Expanding the learning and going beyond just doing

work alone will overtime make for a much more rounded individual. Percy mentions quite often that true learning comes from outside experience. In Percy's "The Loss of the Creature" he explains how "a student may simply be strong enough, brave enough, clever enough to take the dogfish and the sonnet by storm, to wrest control of it from the educators and the educational package" (Percy 5). Learning can happen if students take the time and try their hardest. Forming study groups outside of the classroom can be one of the smartest things a student can do. It allows the students to get different viewpoints on the concepts that they are learning. Some students may be able to grasp the information better than others, therefore they can help them out. College can be tough on students, so isolation is not the answer.

For a student to obtain all of the knowledge that they might need for a test, it sometimes takes more than just the traditional way of studying. Gaining experience is all about not being afraid to try new things in life, even if they seem difficult. One solution that allows students to see the concepts from a different view is Khan Academy. It is not only free and easily accessible, but it also breaks the information that you are learning to be more understandable. Khan Academy has just about every class that a student might take, as well as explaining certain concepts in depth. It is also a very good source for visual learners. There are loads of videos to watch if more explanation is needed. Percy explains how "everyone finds himself in a modern technical society" (Percy 6). This is the new modern way of learning. For students that might have a test coming up, Khan Academy is very useful to test their knowledge of the information. It allows for students to get a full understanding and actually grasp the concepts that they are learning, instead of being stuck behind. Khan Academy is not the only resource out there that students can utilize online. YouTube can be a very useful source as well when it comes to learning concepts step by step.

Often students have trouble managing their time in college, which is understandable at first because they might be involved in many different things. One thing that all students should do to help maximize their learning outside the classroom is developing a daily reflection. This can be something that allows the student to plan their day out, write down their goals, and get their work done on time. This is important because students need to space out their time and make sure they have time for certain things. Percy explains learning when he states, “if we look into the ways in which the student can recover the dogfish (or the sonnet), we will see that they have in common the stratagem of avoiding the educator’s direct presentation of the object as a lesson to be learned and restoring access to sonnet and dogfish as beings to be known, reasserting the sovereignty of knower over known” (Percy 5). Many people do not realize but having a planner and developing a regimen is something that will overtime allow for success. Students that decide to take on this task will most likely see more success. Through formulating a plan comes with great benefits later. Developing a routine that allows an individual to maximize their time throughout their day is something that a lot of college students strive to do, but do not achieve. It is not easy, but through grit and perseverance, it can be done.

Learning does not always have to come from books, powerpoints, and other online resources. It can come through the benefit of others as well. One way to transform the learning here at WCU is through getting more engaged in the community through volunteering and other events. Putting together and hosting events gives one experience that they can take to benefit and further their lives. This form of learning teaches you things that are not usually taught in the classroom. Percy states how they “certify their experience as genuine” (Percy 3). Obtaining genuine experience comes from doing hands on activities, especially in the community. Of course everyone knows that volunteering is good, but not everyone takes joy in the things they do. Finding the good in things is something that everyone should do to learn more about

themselves and others as well. Getting involved in a community says a lot about an individual. People will see the types of things that person might be doing and think to themselves that they should start following in that person's footsteps. Transformative learning outside of the classroom is very important and learning and getting more involved in the community is a great way to accomplish that goal of learning.

For transformative learning to take place outside of the classroom students can put things into their own hands and form study groups, utilize khan academy and other resources, develop a planner or reflection to maximize their learning, as well as engaging in the community. This learning is essential to do well in college life, due to the way the curriculum is put together. If students put in the time to allow for transformative learning to happen, it most definitely could. Students that decide to form study groups to study and do homework will most likely be more successful than students that do not. If the study groups do work and not just sit around. Utilizing Khan Academy or another online resource to do more learning is another way a student can get good learning done outside of the classroom. Having a planner to plan out the day and write what needs to get done is very effective and it can allow for the student to accomplish their goals. Engaging in the community teaches valuable lessons outside of the classroom that cannot be learned inside of it. Overall, using time wisely outside of the classroom and not just letting it waste away will overtime call for a more well rounded and successful student.