

From: Brenda Torney
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Faculty
Subject: TLC News – Emotions and Learning

Dear Colleagues,

New York Times columnist David Brooks recently published an opinion piece entitled “Students learn from people they love”. This observation might seem obvious, or simply irrelevant. But it’s worth contemplating.

Let’s take foreign language learning as an example. In the 1970s, Stephen Krashen developed a theory of the “affective filter”. The idea is that lowering the filter facilitates language learning, and raising the filter hinders it. When the filter is high, the student experiences stress and anxiety. In turn, high anxiety levels hinder a student’s ability to use and learn the language. Foreign language teachers in the U.S. at the time were trained to keep the filter low: keep anxiety levels low, and students will learn a new language better and faster. One way to do this is to show students you care about them.

While Krashen’s work is not without criticism and research into the affective filter and related hypotheses remains inconclusive, teachers often report that, indeed, happy and relaxed students often take in, process and produce language more easily than those who are nervous about being corrected by the teacher or embarrassed by their grammar mistakes and strong accent.

David Brooks is a believer. We invite you to read his story and bring your thoughts to the next TLC event.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/17/opinion/learning-emotion-education.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur>

Upcoming events:

Feb. 11-13 *Intergroup Dialogue and Diversity Education training workshop* (space is limited; contact Rebekah Rast rrast@aup.edu for more information)

Feb. 18 at 6pm in C-102 (*NOTE – there will be no TLC lunch Feb. 18 as previously announced*) – Martin Dege, Irene Strasser (Psychology) and Russell Williams (Comparative Literature) will be leading a discussion about student writing and technology. A more detailed description of the workshop is coming soon.

Feb. 26, 9am-5pm in Combes, Faculty Retreat – Experiential Learning and Digital Literacy

Have a good week!

Your TLC

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