CONSTRUCTIVE VERSUS DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

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One important goal of being an educator is to make each of our learners better and make them realize their hidden potential. To do this, we need to overcome the challenge of correcting their mistakes by providing constructive criticism. But this is not always easy; criticisms can be damaging which can diminish a student's desire to learn. How do we differentiate a constructive criticism from a destructive one, and how can we enhance our skills in providing them?

First, we need to ensure that our teaching standards are logical, within the level that we know our students can achieve. If we set impossible standard which they won't be able to reach, any criticism that we deliver becomes unreasonable and dishonest. Constructive criticism also comes from mentorship. As teachers, we want our students to learn from us so we correct their mistakes and provide useful feedbacks. Destructive criticisms on the other hand only expresses dissatisfaction and harsh disapproval.

Another thing, constructive type of criticism encourages. To provide one, we highlight our student's positive contribution more than the negative by sandwiching our criticism between praises or recognition. Doing this can prevent hurting their feelings which can cause demotivation. The destructive kind though only focuses on the wrong and the negative and does not recognize any effort given. Constructive criticism also boosts confidence which usually leads to growth. To do this, students should be given the chance to express opinions and feedbacks so that they won't feel pained receiving them as well. They should also be made to understand why they are being corrected
which will make them more receptive. On the other hand, destructive criticism is done to belittle or damage a receiver's ego. It dismisses opinions and does not hear any sides.

Lastly, to make criticisms useful and constructive, it has to come from a place of good intention. Our intention matters a lot because it sparks our efforts and hardwork as educators. We won't go wrong in providing constructive criticisms if we start from having a good intention.

References:

Criticisms: Constructive vs. Destructive
https://thelordofthenerds.wordpress.com/2014/08/28/criticisms-constructive-vs-destructive/