FIRST PRINCIPLE OF TEACHING IN THE VIRTUAL WORLD

by:
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Arthur W. Chickering and Zelda F. Gamson researched and studied and came up with Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education. The first principle is “Encourage contact between students and faculty” or, put in other words, “Know Your Students.”

The classic saying goes, “People do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” applies to many areas of a person’s life including the teacher-student relationship. Teaching is more than just passing knowledge – it is all about building relationships.

Students, like all other people, must know that teachers care before they care to learn what is taught. The first step of caring or the strongest indication that someone cares is when they get to know people.

Getting to know people is not that easy and our current situation where most human interactions are done virtually, does not exactly help. Now, how would teachers get to know their students in our current set-up?

To get to know someone, there must be communication between the two parties involved. It is a good thing that we are now in the 21st century where we can communicate with each other with the press of a button.

Also, it would help a lot of teachers communicate with parents to know their situation at home, how they are doing, to know what the learning environment students have when they study. Teachers could also task the students to keep journals – just day-to-day log of what happens to them.
Whenever there is a chance, listen. Let them talk. Let them share. Reading and absorbing all this sounds like a lot of work but children are our future. When we were having face to face set-up, a lot of children were lagging behind for a wide variety of reasons.

In our current situation, learning might just have been more difficult for the students as teaching and evaluating has been harder for teachers. After all the hard work teachers have put in their passion, getting to know students to let them know that we care would at least be one step closer to the excellence we dream for the students and ultimately, our future.

References: