Transformative Learning and Adult Education

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Date (April 6, 2024)

Professor

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Assignment #1 – Course Essential Elements

1. Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Weekend Residency: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Course Essential Elements

Of the four Core Essential Elements from the Syllabus Outline, Transformative Learning Theory will be the focus of this paper. Transformative Learning Theory transcends the ability to learn. It goes deeper in that the objective is yes, still to learn, but in addition to that learning, a student’s life may also be shaped and molded in positive ways because of what he or she has been taught. The student’s perspective, beliefs and even norms can be influenced.

The following is an example of how transformative learning works. Many of us have had to read literature while in college. Usually, if students grasped the message in the story, in most instance the students passed the course because what is needed in this type of learning is fundamentally just an understanding of what is written. However, as mentioned transformation learning is different. For example, having read John Steinbeck’s novel, East of Eden, on the surface it is the story of family conflict. Yet, what Steinbeck does as an author is make the reader first look at the lifestyles of his characters and that leads to many wanting to look at how they live too. Steinbeck explores truth, redemption, morality, choice and purpose. He teaches self-examination and that lesson can be a catalyst to transformative experiences. (Peranić, 2020)

Even though Steinbecks book is a novel and not a textbook, he still shows us how transformative learning theory works in practice. For the writer of this paper, after reading East of Eden, I became more cognizant of what it means to make better life choices. Through his book I had my first experience with transformation learning theory.

Reference

Peranić, B. (2020). Steinbeck's and Kazan's East of Eden and the Virgin Land paradigm (Doctoral dissertation, University of Zagreb. University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Department of English language and literature).