Little Talks That Make A Big Difference: THE TEI PODCAST SERIES

PODCAST REFLECTION GUIDE
#5 Naming The World: Applying What You’ve Learned

Definitions and Reflections:

A stressful learning situation can be created when a student is learning something new in the presence of her peers. As a social being who has the need to belong, a learner is usually tuned into her peers for a sense of acceptance.

Reflect: Think of a time when a student showed anxiety or resistance to a particular learning activity. What do you think contributed to this stressful learning situation?

Naming the world, or making the invisible visible, is Paulo Freire's concept that a teacher can identify and teach words that describe central themes that are relevant to their students' experience.

Try This:

Naming the Four A's of Learning is one way to make the learning process visible by naming learning as a process that people experience in different ways, beyond the labels of right and wrong, or being stupid or smart. This can mitigate stressful learning situations.

1. Awareness Stage: When the learner is aware of what the new task is – perhaps feeling anxious and/or excited.

2. Awkward Stage: When the learner goes from the what to the how of the task, experiencing the process for the first time. The learner can feel incompetent or inept if not given encouragement, nurturance, support and opportunities to practice.

3. Avoidance Stage: When the learner has experienced negative feedback during the awkward stage, they feel unable to learn the task. This is a predictable but not inevitable stage in the learning process.

4. Automatic Stage: When the learner can engage in the skill as if it is second nature. Learners enter this stage as a direct result of encouragement and positive experiences during the awkward stage.