

## Natural Critical Learning Environments

### People are most likely to learn deeply when

1. They are trying to answer questions or solve problems they find intriguing, important, or beautiful;
2. They can try, fail, receive feedback, and try again before anyone makes a judgement of (grades) their work;
3. They can collaborate with other learners struggling with the same problems;
4. They can speculate even before they know anything;
5. They face repeated challenges to their existing fundamental paradigms;
6. They can get support (emotional, physical, and intellectual assistance) when they need it;
7. They care that their existing paradigms do not work;
8. They feel in control of their own learning, not manipulated;
9. They believe that their work will be considered fairly and honestly;
10. They believe that their work will matter;
11. They believe that intelligence and abilities are expandable, that if they work hard, they will get better at it;
12. They believe other people have faith in their ability to learn;
13. They believe that they can learn;
14. They have a chance to do the discipline before they fully know the discipline, learning the basic information **while** they engage in problem-solving, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and theory-making;
15. They can learn inductively rather than deductively, moving from the specific to the general rather than the general to the specific.

For more information on creating a NCLE consult Ken Bain. *What the Best College Teachers Do*. Harvard University Press, 2004, and *What the Best College Students Do*. Harvard University Press, 2012.

### What the Best College Teachers Do

#### Summer Institute

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