

Student Centered Learning- Claire Couillard

I think my fellow classmates have done an excellent job summing up student centered learning. I like this idea a lot and I am so glad it is becoming more and more popular. The main reason I like online classes so much, is because I hold the key to my own success and failures. Sure, at the end of the day, the professor is the one grading my papers but it is ME who really has to make the decision of what information I am going to take out of the classes I am in. The way I have gone through my Graduate Degree here at Stout is so much different than the way I went through my Undergraduate Degree.

I didn't used to be a student-centered learner, focusing on my own goals in learning. Before, I did what the professor told me, completed my assignments and when the semester was over, forgot most of what I learned. This time around, I am in charge of my own future, and it is great! I am getting so much more out of my education this way. I picked this major and program at Stout because it was interesting to me and it was so very relatable to my job. Everything that I do in class now, I try to relate back to work or my career goals. I am invested in the courses I take and I go in wanting to learn. The fact that I get grades and have projects due are merely aids to helping me succeed and that is what I believe is at the core of student centered learning.

I want to give you all a copy of a video that I think it so interesting.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc> This video talks about what motivates people. The speech is by Dan Pink, a NYT bestselling author of the book, Drive. The part I want to draw your attention to is at about minute 5 (I recommend that you watch the whole thing, but if you can't, this is the good part), where Pink states that Autonomy is one of the 3 factors that motivate people. Autonomy is a person's desire to be self-directed. Management usually tries to stifle this, but for the best performance, it is better when workers (and students!) are engaged. The studies have showed this and I think education is finally getting it right with student centered learning. Now, I think it is time to get to the workforce on board and let us self-direct ourselves at work too!!