Perry’s Stages of Intellectual and Moral Development for Information Literacy Instructors

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Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/seeminglee/4556156477/
Setting the Stage

• What's wrong with traditional library instruction?

• How can we improve it?

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/trucolorsfly/352573802/
William Perry

Forms of Ethical and Intellectual Development in the College Years
Perry's Stages (simplified)

- Dualism
- Multiplicity
- Relativity
- Commitment
Cognitive Development

College 1st year
Dualism

College 4th yr
Multiplicity

Professional
Relativity

Commitment
Dualism

- Black/White
- Right/Wrong
- Authorities have the answers
- Students receive knowledge

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/swamibu/2855812597/
oh good, a true or false test.

at last, some clarity! every sentence is either pure, sweet truth or a vile, contemptible lie! one or the other! nothing in between!
Multiplicity

- Diversity recognized
- Authorities disagree
- Everyone's opinion equal
- Students give the teacher whatever they want

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/paulyp13/2869931859/
"Maybe it's not a wrong answer—maybe it's just a different answer."
OH NO! EVERYTHING HAS SUDDENLY TURNED NEO-CUBIST!

IT ALL STARTED WHEN CALVIN ENGAGED HIS DAD IN A MINOR DEBATE. SOON CALVIN COULD SEE BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE! THEN POOR CALVIN BEGAN TO SEE BOTH SIDES OF EVERYTHING!

THE TRADITIONAL SINGLE VIEWPOINT HAS BEEN ABANDONED! PERSPECTIVE HAS BEEN FRAC-TURED!

THE MULTIPLE VIEWS PROVIDE TOO MUCH INFORMATION! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE! CALVIN QUICKLY TRIES TO ELIMINATE ALL BUT ONE PERSPECTIVE!

IT WORKS! THE WORLD FALLS INTO A RECOGNIZABLE ORDER!

YOU'RE STILL WRONG, DAD.
Relativity

- Context matters
- Authorities can be analyzed
- "Truth" depends on evidence
- Students actively make meaning

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/nachoissd/3499105933/
Commitment

• Faced with relativity, you make choices
• Students stake a position in debates

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/sholt/2507005746/
Under stress...

Dualism → Multiplicity → Relativity → Commitment
Under stress...

Temporize - pause
Retreat - backtracking
Escape - rejection

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/tzofia/270800047/
Perry's Stages

- Dualism
- Multiplicity
- Relativity
- Commitment
Scenario 1: Evaluation
Scenario 1: Evaluation

Approach:
Information is right or wrong. Struggle with differing viewpoints on a given issue.

Encouragement:
Students consider multiple 'expert' viewpoints on a controversial topic.
Scenario 1: Evaluation

Approach:
Every idea is equally valid, so why do we need to evaluate?

Encouragement:
Give students a specific set of criteria to look for while evaluating sources.
Scenario 1: Evaluation

Approach:
Evaluate based on context and evidence.

Encouragement:
Ask students to take a position based on the information they find most valuable.
Scenario 2: Select Results

   Database: PsycINFO
   Add to folder | find it

   Database: PsycINFO
   Add to folder | Cited References: (39) | Times Cited in this Database: (28)
   find it

   Database: PsycINFO
   Add to folder
   find it

   Database: PsycINFO
Scenario 2: Select Results

Approach:
Pick sources with exact keywords used in search.

Encouragement:
Have students explain their topic using their own vocabulary before searching.
Scenario 2: Select Results

Approach:
Pick first sources that meet minimum required standards.

Encouragement:
Ask students to articulate why a particular source is better than others for the topic.
Scenario 2: Select Results

Approach:
Choose more sources than needed, read them, then pick best for argument

Encouragement:
Ask students to make connections between assignments. What implications do arguments used have on students as professionals?
Librarian As…

Dualism  Multiplicity  Relativity  Commitment

How-To Guide  Strategist  Expert & Model  Resource
Instruction Reflection

Think/Pair/Share:

Think of a class you recently taught.

• What stage were your learners?

• What stage was your content?

• How could you improve instruction in the future based on what you know about Perry’s stages?
In Conclusion...

Covering the content isn't enough - Teach in ways that help the students learn.
Questions?

Dualism
Multiplicity
Relativity
Commitment
References


