

Life GPA: Teaching Beyond the Grade

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CENTER *for* TEACHING



Introductions

Why did you choose your field?

Why do you feel it's important to life?

Enduring Understanding

Effective teachers look for ways of engaging students despite their varying motivations, and communicate course content in ways that challenge them and pique their interest.

Ken Robinson – Changing Paradigms

Group Work

What are some of the challenges to motivating students to care about your material?

Deep Learners

Enjoy the
challenge of
content mastery



Adam Climbing 1 by Greg Nissen

Strategic Learners



SPAR Sprints 100m under 17 Women by teotwawki

Motivated by rewards.

React well to competition.

Require them to apply, synthesize and evaluate material

Surface Learners

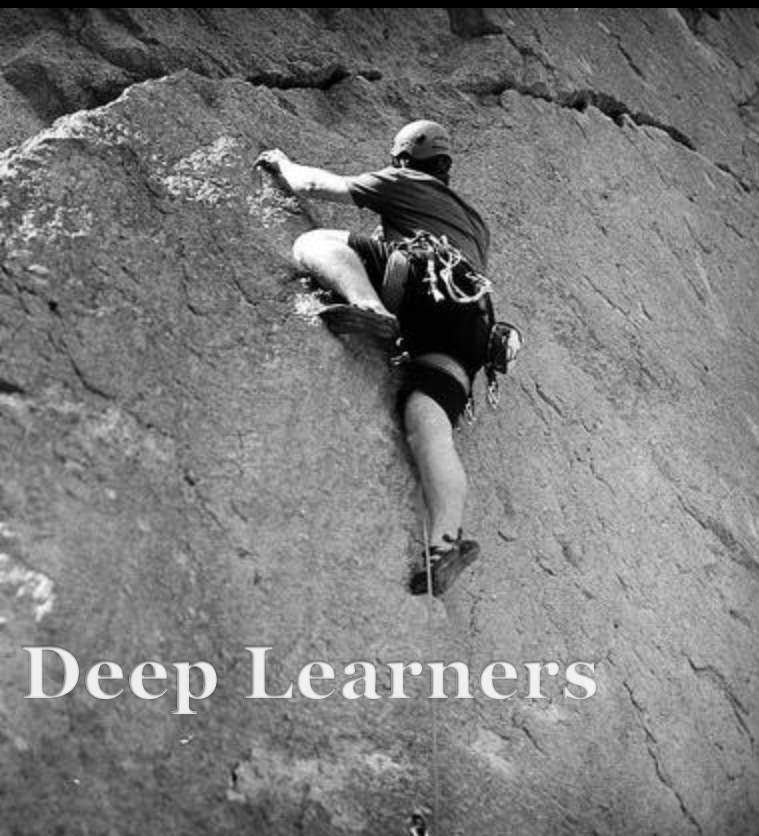
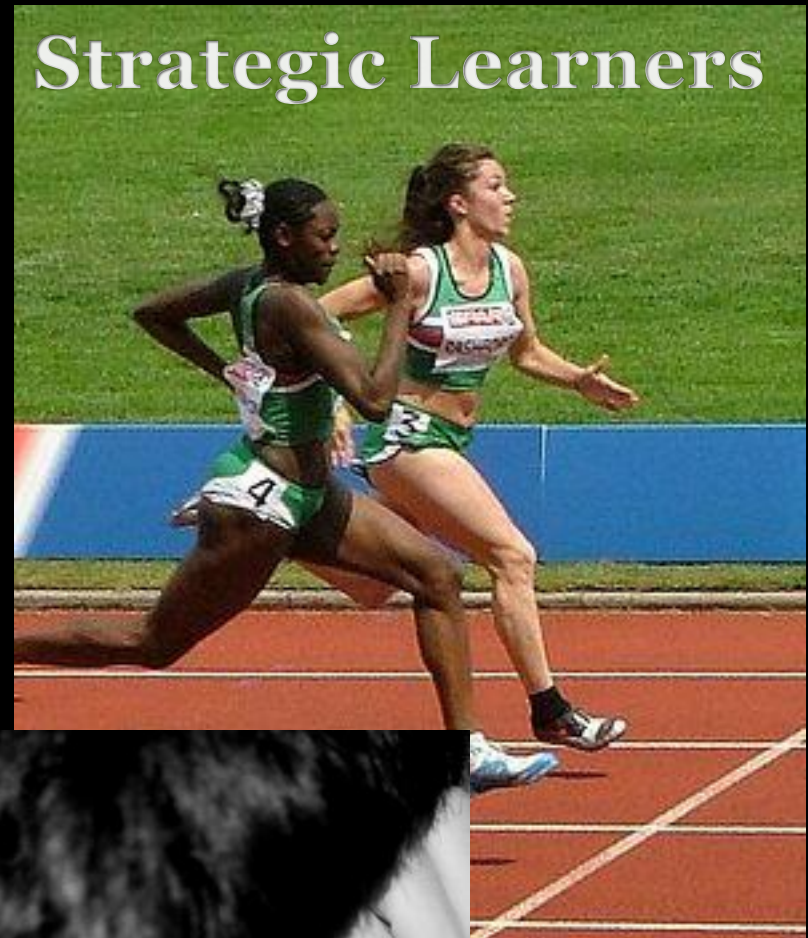
Motivated by desire to avoid failure.

Scaffold material

Encourage them to reflect on what they've learned along the way



Strategic Learners



Deep Learners



Surface Learners

A Few Techniques ...

- Model – enthusiasm
- Get to know your students
- Use examples
- Frequent and constructive feedback
- Challenge them

A Few Techniques ...

- Authentic Audiences
 - Students take their work more seriously when they write for their peers than when they write for their professors.
 - Examples
 - In-class blogs or wiki
 - Poster sessions
 - Letters to the author (of book read in class and evaluated)
 - Paper presentations
 - Peer review

A Few Techniques ...

- Community-Based Learning (Service Learning)
 - Benefits
 - Connection to “real life”
 - Leads to greater community involvement after graduation
 - Network with professional in the community
 - Improved graduations rates
 - Types of projects of vary



Practice

- Identify one topic (or segment of material) that you typically include in your course.
- How can you relate that material to the students in a way that demonstrates its relevance to them and/or engages them in the learning process?