SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

1. Learners use what they already know to construct new understandings.

2. Learning with understanding is facilitated when new and existing knowledge is structured around the major concepts and principles of the discipline.

3. Learning is facilitated through the use of metacognitive strategies that identify, monitor, and regulate cognitive processes.

4. Learners have different strategies, approaches, patterns of abilities, and learning styles that are a function of the interaction between their heredity and their prior experiences.

Different students construct their understanding differently.

5. Learners' motivation to learn and sense of self affects what is learned, how much is learned, and how much effort will be put into the learning process.

Key job of TA is to motivate and support construction of understanding.

6. The practices and activities in which people engage while learning shape what is learned.

If we just teach procedure, they will only learn procedure. TA behavior influences how and what is learned.

7. Learning is enhanced through socially supported interactions.

Constructing meaning and understanding is socially facilitated and mediated.

From Learning and Understanding, Gollub, Bertenthal, Labor & Curtis, ed., National Academy Press, Ch. 6 (2002)