Global Learning Partners

Dialogue Education Essentials – The Right Bit of What for the When

by Jane Vella, PhD

"If I only had enough time I could cover this subject!"

You may have said this yourself. And I'd be surprised if you hadn't heard other teachers say it! If the content of a learning event is worth its salt in meaning and significance, you'll never have enough time.

The fourth step of the 8 Steps of Design allows you to consider the time and timing for your learning event (the When). It assures that you know how much time you have with a set of learners for them to learn the content of the event (or the What).

We all know how easy it is to design too much content for the allotted time, or what we who use Dialogue Education like to call "too much What for the When." Skilled educators are aware of this danger to learning, and they design with it in mind. Less is more!

The end is learning, not sharing buckets of information!

It is skilled and difficult work indeed to select those items of content that are essential to developing knowledge, attitudes and skills for the purpose at hand. I have not discovered a perfect magic formula to avoid too much What for my When. But I do know it helps to be aware that too much content in a given time frame is a danger to learning.

And, to help you out with this challenge, my colleague Darlene Goetzman has written a terrific chapter about how to select the "best" content for your learning event in her helpful, downloadable coaching guide, Dialogue Education Step by Step: A Guide for Designing Exceptional Learning Events.

All of this explains why this is one of my Dialogue Education Essentials:
Be aware of "too much WHAT for the WHEN!"

Cuidado! Be careful! Beware! Attention! Angalia! DANGER!!!

What tips do you have for avoiding this danger?

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