

Comparison of Teacher-Centered and Learner-Centered Paradigms

From Figure 1-2 in Huba and Freed, *Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning*, 2000



What I know best I have taught...

...the individuals learning the most in the teacher-centered classrooms are the teachers there. They have reserved for themselves the very conditions that promote learning:

actively **seeking** new information,
integrating it with what is known,
organizing it in a meaningful way, and
explaining it to others.

Page 35, Huba and Freed, *Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning*, 2000



First, an exercise:

1. Individually, write down five words or short phrases that come to mind when you think of:
Student-Centered Learning
2. In small groups, select three “most important”.
3. Finally, prepare to report out one choice.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Knowledge is transmitted from professor to student.

Learner-Centered

Students construct knowledge through gathering and synthesizing information and integrating it with the general skills of inquiry, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Students passively receive information.

Learner-Centered

Students are actively involved.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Emphasis is on acquisition of knowledge outside the context in which it will be used.

Learner-Centered

Emphasis is on using and communicating knowledge effectively to address enduring and emerging issues and problems in real-life contexts.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Instructor's role is to be primary information giver and primary evaluator.

Learner-Centered

Instructor's role is to coach and facilitate.
Instructor and students evaluate learning together.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Teaching and assessing are separate.

Learner-Centered

Teaching and assessing are intertwined.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Assessment is used to monitor learning.

Learner-Centered

Assessment is used to promote and diagnose learning.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Emphasis is on right answers.

Learner-Centered

Emphasis is on generating better questions and learning from errors.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Desired learning is assessed indirectly through the use of objectively scored tests.

Learner-Centered

Desired learning is assessed directly through papers, projects, performances, portfolios, and the like.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Focus is on a single discipline.

Learner-Centered

Approach is compatible with interdisciplinary investigation.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Culture is competitive and individualistic.

Learner-Centered

Culture is cooperative, collaborative, and supportive.



Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Only students are viewed as learners.

Learner-Centered

Professor and students learn together.



Outcomes?

Moving away from:

Are students getting the right answer?



Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can students demonstrate the qualities that we value in educated persons, the qualities we expect of college graduates?



Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can students gather and evaluate new information, think critically, reason effectively, and solve problems?



Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can [students] communicate clearly, drawing upon evidence to provide a basis for argumentation?



Outcomes?

Moving to:

Do [students'] decisions and judgments reflect understanding of universal truths[/concepts] in the humanities and arts [etc.]?



Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can [students] work respectfully and productively with others?



Outcomes?

Moving to:

Do [students] have self-regulating qualities like persistence and time management that will help them reach long-term goals?