



Theory of Learning

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Given: A sociocultural and constructivist environment.

Prove: People will learn.

STATEMENTS	REASONS
1) A sociocultural and constructivist environment.	Given
2) Psychologist Lev Vygotsky says that growth, knowledge, and learning is guided by the people around us who are more skilled (Cherry, 2022).	By definition of sociocultural theory.
3) By interacting and surrounding myself with more knowledgeable others during my formal educational opportunities I am able to transfer that new information and create new connections and ideas.	"According to Vygotsky, learning has its basis in interacting with other people. Once this has occurred, the information is then integrated on the individual level." (Cherry, 2022).
4) Even in non-traditional educational settings, new learning can occur as long as the skill isn't too far outside my Zone of Proximal Development.	"Essentially, it [Zone of Proximal Development] includes all of the knowledge and skills that a person cannot yet understand or perform on their own but is capable of learning with guidance." (Cherry, 2022).
5) Jean Piaget's studies of cognitive development says that learning is built by individuals based on existing foundational knowledge and through experiences and social settings. (Kurt, 2021)	By definition of constructivism
6) Because of my unique experiences, when I learn something new I will construct new ideas based on that unique prior knowledge I came in with which in turn makes this new knowledge uniquely mine.	"Every student begins the learning journey with some preexisting knowledge and then continues to build their understanding on top of that. They will select which pieces of the experience to add, making everyone's knowledge unique." (Kurt, 2021).
7) This construction of knowledge will happen by being an active participant in discussions, group activities, conversations, and through reflection of new knowledge gained.	"Interacting with others is vital to constructing knowledge. Group work, discussions, conversations, and interactions are all important to creating understanding. When we reflect on our past experiences, we can see how our relationship with others is directly connected to the information learned." (Kurt, 2021).

8) Therefore, by actively engaging in group activities, with people that have unique and potentially more knowledge backgrounds on certain topics and as long as a new skill is not far out of my zone of proximal development, I will begin to build my own knowledge that is uniquely mine. By combining the sociocultural learning theory and understanding that learning is constructed according to Piaget's theory **people will begin to learn** the new skill.

"...guide learning by implementing group activities, creating collaborative dialogue, and facilitating interactive experiences, students build on their prior knowledge and construct new understanding based on lessons taught." (Kurt, 2021).

"Creating a collaborative learning environment is one way to use sociocultural theory... this might involve pairing students with others of higher skill levels, or it could be by learning as a group versus having students learn on their own. Teachers can also take advantage of the zone of proximal development by providing guidance and support to help the students reach their learning goals..." (Cherry, 2022).

RESOURCES:

Cherry, K. (2022, June 3). *Sociocultural theory of development*. Verywell Mind.

<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-sociocultural-theory-2795088>

Kurt, S. (2021, February 21). *Constructivist Learning Theory*. Educational Technology.

<https://educationaltechnology.net/constructivist-learning-theory/>