

LEGAL EDUCATION REVIEW

Deep Learning, Critical Thinking and Teaching for Law Reform

Anne Macduff

This teaching note has demonstrated how facilitating understanding through interactive and critical teaching practices is a teaching practice better aligned with focussing on what the student does and deep learning, than teaching by providing information. Facilitating critical understanding is a more effective teaching practice because the learning it creates is potentially deeper. Deep social learning leads to a more sophisticated understanding of social issues within the student and reaffirms the individual's agency for acting in the real world. Legal educators have a responsibility to develop these critical skills in their students. Facilitating critical thinking skills through interactive engagement is essential to encourage our students to be socially responsible, and may enable more students to translate their understandings into actions which reform unjust laws beyond the lecture theatre.