



ZIS Definition of Learning

Learning is a process that leads to a sustained and demonstrable consolidation or extension of conceptual understanding, competencies or character.

CONCEPTUAL

Conceptual learning is happening when students are:

- Connecting new, potentially disruptive, knowledge to prior understanding and to important concepts
- Constructing and re-constructing theories of how things work and why things are the way they are
- Testing their evolving theories in different contexts to refine them so they increased explanatory power to see when, where and how they apply

COMPETENCY

Competency learning is happening when students are:

- Deconstructing expert performance and comparing it to their own
- Identifying the adjustments they need to make
- Practicing a skill in order to refine it and make it increasingly automatic

CHARACTER

Character learning is happening when students are:

- Considering what particular dispositions and values would "look like" when applied in specific authentic contexts
- Acting as a result of these considerations
- Reflecting on the effects of these actions