



“That’s your responsibility as a person, as a human being — to constantly be updating your positions on as many things as possible. And if you don’t contradict yourself on a regular basis, then you’re not thinking.”

- Malcolm Gladwell

Applying Knowledge vs. Absorbing Knowledge

YES

- **Relevance** – creating the foundation.
- **Environment** – encouraging engagement, **intellectual autonomy**.
- **Discussion** – facilitating **student reasoning** by helping them distinguish connections.
- Courses: ENGL 491, ENGL 376, and PEAC 325.

NO

- **Lack of Respect in the Classroom** – students work to prove their point rather than tackle or experiment with it. **Lack of intellectual humility**.
- **“Subscribing” to Popular Opinions** – *having* an opinion rather than actually forming it. **Lack of intellectual autonomy**.

What does it mean to *update your opinion*?

- **Seek** – new topics, old topics, professional and individual opinions, anything
- Employ **intellectual fair-mindedness** and **approach** every viewpoint in an unbiased way without reference to individual interests.
- **Be open** and **humble** – acknowledge your own biases and the limits of your knowledge as you interact with new information.
- ~~Change your mind.~~ **Update your position.**

Thinking About Thinking

ME

- Embark upon new and larger projects.
- Sharpen depth and accuracy of ideas as I work through those projects.
- Continue to constantly update my position as a critical thinker.

YOU

- Continue to update your own position.
- Update your position alongside mine – see how I’m constructing, and how I can better develop, my ideas.
- Encourage me to think about new things in our discipline.

Sources

- Popova, Maria. "Malcolm Gladwell on Criticism, Tolerance, and Changing Your Mind." *Brain Pickings*. 2014. Web.