How Your Students’ Prior Knowledge and Beliefs Can Impact Learning, and What You Can Do About It

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Talk about Teaching
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Agenda

• What your student brings to class
  – Beliefs
  – Prior knowledge
• Assessing for prior knowledge
What do your students know?

What do we think our students know?
What do students think they know?
Arrival in our Classrooms

Learning

- Perceptions
- Beliefs
- Values
- Concepts
- Facts
- Attitudes
What we ask students to do

- Prior knowledge
- New Material
- Integrate New Knowledge
- Student performance
STUDENTS’ BELIEFS ABOUT KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING
Beliefs about Knowledge

- Isolated
- Connected
- Certain
- Ambiguous
- Authorities
- Reason

Beliefs about Learning

- Quick Acquisition
- Gradual Acquisition
- Intelligence as innate
- Intelligence as incremental
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

How it can help or hinder learning
How can we address prior knowledge to promote learning?
Deliberate Activation of Prior Knowledge

- What do you already know?
- Link new information from prior units and courses
- Include minor prompts and reminders
- Use elaborative interrogation
- Ask students to generate examples of the concept