

Learner awareness, untold stories

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What are the levels and dimensions of awareness? How can teachers explore student's awareness of themselves as learners? How can learners develop their identities in order to be autonomous learners, intercultural communicators and global citizens? This paper addresses these questions and describes how positive benefits can be gained from analyzing student awareness. Each section focuses on a different aspect of student awareness—in particular, cultural awareness, communication styles, learning styles, and classroom perceptions—and describes the salient points of each. The paper also recounts students' experiences, stories, and discoveries, and describes how these raise awareness and shed light on the learning process.

What makes our students *tick*? How can we help them become aware of themselves and of others, and use their discoveries as resources? How can teachers plumb the depths of each student's awareness of themselves as learners? Such an analysis by teachers in their teaching roles is no simple task. However, this paper argues that there are indeed positive benefits to be gained from exploring student awareness if the analysis is done with appropriate criteria, goals, and frames of mind. This report also describes and discusses data collection methods, as well as how this data could be analyzed. The goal was to provide useful insights into the necessity of understanding students' awareness of themselves as learners.

Research on learning in the classroom emphasizes the fact that individual students perceive and process information in very different ways. In addition, teaching language skills is much more than merely imparting vocabulary, grammar, and sentence patterns. Raising students' awareness of themselves as

learners, and helping them overcome their shortcomings and become aware of others is an integral part of attaining communicative competency. This paper outlines some of the concepts involved in raising student awareness, and argues why this is an important aspect of students' language development. The prime focus of the approaches outlined is the overall improvement of students' communication skills while enabling them to become effective global citizens.

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