

ENEMIES OF LEARNING

Adapted from The Newfield Network

1. Inability to admit that we do not know
2. Given the way I am, I cannot learn that
3. Cognitive blindness – I don't know, what I don't know
4. Not assigning priority to learning (I haven't got time, I'm too busy)
5. Significance (wear knowledge as adornment)
6. Triviality (can't take anything seriously)
7. Inability to unlearn (US car manufacturers)
8. Forgetting the body (Learning takes place in the body of the learner, nervous system, physical aspects/behaviours – we do it with our body)
9. Confusing learning with acquiring information (very little information & great wisdom; lot of information and very little wisdom; wisdom has to do with the art of living)
10. Absence of adequate emotional context (emotional states are a predisposition to learning – some help and others hinder. A simple discovery in a supportive environment creates more learning than a masterpiece that we get to know through imposition and harassment; intellectual processes operate under emotional foundations; opening up to learn, to question what we already know. This is an emotional predisposition to learning. Without it learning cannot take place.)
11. Not giving permission to another to teach us. (First step is to acknowledge that we do not know – declaration of ignorance; second step is to find somebody from whom we can learn and declaring them our teacher; relationship built on trust and authority (generate action in a particular space/domain with greater ability than us)
12. Mistrust – to learn to introduce oneself to the unknown; trust the teacher and allowing him/her to guide you.