

Lecture Five

CELEBRATING YOUR UNFINISHEDNESS: A PERSPECTIVE ON PERSONAL PERFORMANCE AND THE AIMS OF EDUCATION

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Objectives: To understand key attitudes underemphasized in veterinary training that promote self-renewal and peak personal performance, and how developing dialogic self-awareness can raise the quality of our thinking, making us better equipped as discoverers and educators

Summary: Creative excellence in discovery, education, and communication demands stamina and openmindedness. Stamina requires renewal, yet few opportunities for self-renewal are built into most workplaces. And as experts, our openmindedness is often stifled by our own sense of finishedness. This lecture will lay out a strategy for sustained renewal and creative excellence: Each person assembling a gallery of hand-picked intellectual heroes to serve as their life-long teachers. It will argue that tethering oneself to intellectual heroes does not limit one's creative potential but instead achieves exactly the opposite effect — enabling one to see and reach their own greatest potential. By strengthening the habit of strategic tethering, we situate an active, partially guided search for self-renewal and a heightened receptivity to new ideas at the very core of achieving excellence in the research-education space. The lecture will provide fresh insights into the skills and attitudes of peak performance that can make us better educators — educating our clients, our colleagues, ourselves.

References

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6. Waters DJ. On cultivating the attitude of language precision: An uncommon prescription for conditioning creative excellence in scientific discovery and education. *TEXT* (in press April 2017).