Learning to Fail:
The Theories Behind the Positive Power of Failure

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ACRL Chapter
Spring Conference
May 18, 2018
Failure: Friend or Foe?
Failure & Memory

Life is Hard
You will fail, try, and succeed -- that’s how you know you’ve learned something.

Memory comes out of experiences that are: emotional, surprising, challenging

Roger Schank: Dynamic Memory Revisited (1999)
thank you, Lev Vygotsky
What the learner can do based on existing knowledge

What the learner can do with guidance from someone with more knowledge

What is currently beyond the grasp of the learner

Zone of Proximal Development

Harry Daniels: *Vygotsky and Pedagogy* (2001)
Active Learning Methods

- Game-based Learning
- Experiential Learning
- Case-based Learning
- Problem-based Learning
SHOUT OUT
Educational & Social Systems are...

- Achieving only what is prescribed
- Conforming to status quo
- Perpetuating hierarchy, patriarchy, discrimination
- Void of passion
- Capitalist, neo-liberal
- Racist, sexist, classist, elitist

bell hooks: *Teaching to Transgress* (1994)
Failure Learning Power

1. Identify Desired Results.
2. Determine acceptable evidence.
3. Plan learning experiences and instruction.

Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe: *Understanding by Design* (2005)
Design Thinking
Flowchart by John Watts: Head of Knowledge Production @ UNLV (2018)
Loss

Security

Comfort

Identity

Gain

Knowledge

Flexibility

New Roles
Catalyst

Motivation

Reflection

Curiosity

[fr]Agility
High-stakes • Public

Capacity • Development

Strength • Feedback

• Failure

• Learning

• Iterative
Thank You!

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