TED Talk Essay

“Take Charge of your Education” by Martin Kupp Is an interesting talk on an alternative teaching method based on perspective, listening, and emotion.

Kupp’s first and most fundamental piece of teaching advice is regarding perspective. He talks about the perspective of the students often being wasted in traditional teaching techniques. It is explained that the students make up 95% of the life lived, and experiences had, while the teacher only embodies 5%. The most interesting thought that Kupp has about perspective is that every single student has a unique experience that is important for the overall learning experience of the whole class.

Kupp’s second fundamental key to his educational theory is listening. One might expect Kupp to delve into students not listening to the lecturer, as some students have problems doing but he does not. He attacks the issue from another angle and explains that students often tune-out after a professor asks a question and a fellow student is responding to the question. They do not embrace, listen, or learn from their fellow student and their unique perspective. Kupp then explains that this is not conducive to the learning environment, and that some of the best learning can happen when a student is sharing their perspective. The importance on building on each other’s perspective to make a “social sculpture” is conveyed.

Kupp’s third and last fundamental basis for his teaching and learning method is emotion. Kupp states that “people think professionals don’t have emotions” when in fact, the opposite is true, professionals are people and people have emotions. He then goes on to explain how stirring up emotion in his students will spark the most interesting discussion, and in this discussion is where the most profitable learning experience can and will occur.

As a student I plan to implement Kupp’s suggestions by participating in class where-ever I feel I can add to the discussion or voice my unique point of view. This talk really changed my ideas about learning from my classmates and made it clear to me that it is important to voice your opinion as well as pay attention and learn from others’ opinions.