The Laws of Learning

Introduction to the Seven Laws of Teaching* Excellence in teaching is a simple and natural process. Following fundamental rules in teaching results in excellent teaching. The seven laws have application in a wide variety of teaching situations. Enthusiasm, intelligence, and skill are qualities of excellent teachers. 1. The Law of the Teacher Teachers must be fully equipped with the knowledge they wish to communicate. Fresh study and preparation are keys to enriched teaching. 2. The Law of the Learner Student interest and attention must be generated by the teacher. A teacher's enthusiasm is contagious with students. 3. The Law of the Language The words used by the teacher must be easily understood by students. Illustrations, natural objects, and visual aids are important to good communication. 4. The Law of the Lesson Lessons are best begun with common and familiar experiences. Excellent teachers understand the background of their students and use it as a starting point. 5. The Law of the Teaching Process Expert teachers arouse and direct self-activities by their students, thus stimulating them to learn for themselves. Student skills grow with practical exercises involving their minds. 6. The Law of the Learning Process Excellent education helps learners to be investigative discoverers. Real and valuable learning is more than memorization. 7. The Law of Review and Application Review perfects knowledge, confirms knowledge, and makes knowledge ready and useful. Practical reviews are characteristic of excellent teachers. Conclusion Taken together, the seven laws of teaching are freighted with meaning and will, when fully implemented, produce excellent teaching.

[•] Taken from Excellence in Teaching with the Seven Laws: A Contemporary Abridgment of Gregory's Seven Laws of Teaching. By Carl Shafer. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1985.