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RETHINKING "DIFFICULT" STUDENTS REDEFINING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

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Have
you ever
said...

"This is a difficult student"

"This student just doesn't care"

"This student doesn't even try"

"This student doesn't try hard enough"

"This student is just *dumb*"



◦ PORTRAIT OF A DIFFICULT STUDENT

Common Myths About Our Students

- They all learned how to study in high school
- They were taught to prepare for & handle intense testing situations
- College students are adults; they do not need to be taught how to ask questions
- If a student truly needs an accommodation, they already have it
- They do not need reminders about deadlines & class expectations

Common Myths About Our Students


- They were all taught how to effectively write class notes
- They all know how to utilize & access their emails
- They would be organized if they wanted to be
- They were all taught how to be professional before entering college
- They all know the resources available at GCC & how to contact them
- College students have nothing more important to do than college work

"Rethinking Challenging Kids – Where There's a Skill There's a Way." - Dr. J. Stuart Albon

- "Kids do well if they **can**"
- Skill, not will
- Opportunities to practice solving problems collaboratively



EVERY STUDENT IS SIGNIFICANT



Your students can tell you what they need!

Student: _____

Nickname (if preferred): _____

Birthday: _____

Something I should know:

How can I help you be successful?

Special Considerations:

Students Need...

A 5-minute break, regardless
of class session length

Frequent check-ins

Examples of your
expectations

3 Steps to Connect



EMPATHETICALLY IDENTIFY
THE STUDENT'S CONCERN



SHARE YOUR CONCERN



COLLABORATE TO FIND A
SOLUTION



Classroom Suggestions

- Turn off those lights
- Close the door right away
- Avoid PowerPoint sifting
- Provide guided notes
- Weekly reminder emails

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

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Matching
Templates

Mind Maps

Diagrams

Note
templates

Alternative
Readings





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