ECI 306 Banned Word List

The following words tend to be problematic in that they carry with them certain assumptions that contradict or undermine our efforts to teach science and other subjects in ways that are more engaging and more complex. The “Banned Words” seem to be the worst offenders. Do not use these words in assignments or class discussions, unless you are using them in the context of a critique. The “Words to Use with Great Trepidation” may be dangerous to use, so when you use them, do so with caution and especially with precision.

➔ The idea here is not to create a dogma (like banning books), but rather to do just the opposite – to deconstruct the dogma of current educational practices by forcing us to rethink what we do & by uncovering and re-evaluating our own assumptions of teaching and learning.

Banned Words

• Accountability (unless we hold banks, corporations, CEOs, politicians, et al. accountable)
• Anticipatory Set
• Behaviorism (including • rewards, • reinforcement, • behavior modification, etc.)
• Classroom Management
• Closure
• Direct Instruction
• E-Learning (& related terms)
• Efficiency (in teaching and learning)
• KWL
• Lesson Plans
• Objectives
• On-Task
• Piagetian stages of development
• Prescriptive Learning
• Reinforce, reinforcement, etc.
• “Scientific Method”
• SWBAT
• Test
• Time On Task
• Worksheets

Words to Use with Great Trepidation

• Discipline
• Discovery or Discovery Learning (bad reputation due to lack of rigor)
• Evaluation
• Hands-On Learning (has become somewhat meaningless; trivializes Engaged Learning)
• Practice or Guided Practice
• Professional and Professionalism
• Rubric
• Standards

*** These words are:
• loaded with problematic assumptions,
• refer to out-dated or disproven theoretical frameworks, and/or
• ideas that are misused, misunderstood, or misrepresented.