

Author conversations

On teaching students to ask questions

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For me, the biggest goal of our enterprise is to teach our students how to ask questions about the world around them, and how to do that throughout their lives so that nothing is taken for granted. That they question received wisdom, they question what they see in the media. And trying to give them the tools in one course, and hopefully other courses that they will take, so that when they leave college they will have, you know, that kind of mind that is determined to ask hard questions about the social world that they're living in.

Over the years, I've had a number of students who have taken introductory courses with me that kind of bring to the class a set of life experiences that are very relevant to the class materials which they have lived through. But never had some tools to kind of think about. And one of the things, I think, that a good introductory sociology course should do is to give our students some ways of thinking differently about their own worlds. Their own lived experience.

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