

Information: Legalize It?

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Typical class rules:

- Most assignments are “closed internet” (rationale: prevent idea theft, prevent distraction)
- Exams are “closed book” (rationale: there is value in memorizing?)
- No cell phones, tablets, and even laptops (rationale: prevent distraction)

Effect: information is locked down

What are we trying to teach our students?

Information recall?



technological aid

Conceptual understanding?

technological aid

Information literacy?

technological aid

Problem solving?

Our pedagogical values are expressed in our classroom rules...

The “Open Information Environment”:

- Students are allowed to use any information source – other than another person – on all assignments (including exams)
- Students are allowed to use their smartphones, tablets, and laptops during class to take notes or look up information
- Assignments are designed to assure that students have attained core conceptual understanding, can apply gained knowledge to new problems, and know how to find the information they need to solve those problems

“setting information free”

The kind of question I ask my students:

Sometimes workers in eusocial insect colonies will produce their own offspring to be raised by the colony rather than performing the normal worker role of raising siblings. At what level of selection would this behavior be favored (in other words: selected for)?

- At the level of the genes that influence this behavior.
- At the level of an individual worker.
- At the level of the kin group.
- At the level of the eusocial colony.

the OIE forces better pedagogy...

For more on how and why
I have converted all my
classes to the "open
information environment",
see my blog:

<http://wp.me/p1BPr1-1WR>