

Situated Cognition

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Situated Learning

- **Situated Learning Theory:** Skills and knowledge are tied to the situation where they were learned
 - Knowledge learned outside of a meaningful context is useless
 - Focus on apprenticeships
 - Expert guides novice beginning with simple and increasing to complex

Situated Learning Theory

- **Situated Learning:** Learning (thinking) is adapted to the environment
 - Learning develops in a social (cultural) context
- Other theories of learning assume that learning occurs within the learner
 - Individual person is on the learner
 - Learners internalize knowledge
- **Situated Learning Theory:** Learning is embedded within the culture
 - Knowledge: Effective living practices within the culture
 - Learning: Developing the ability to use the tools and skills valued by one's society

Principles of Situated Learning Theory

- Learning is social
 - Other learning theories assume knowledge is "out there" so learning is the process of internalizing knowledge
 - Situated Learning: Learning requires social participation.
 - Learning takes place in the social environment
 - Minds are not separate from the culture
- Knowledge is distributed across the cultural environment
 - Tools, books, and communities
- Knowledge is effective participation in socially valued endeavors
- Education should aim to help students to meaningfully engage with the environment

