

Clip #1 - Judging Success of a Class Session (2:10) Garvin

Judging the success of a case method discussion is one of the toughest challenges. One of the reasons it's so tough is sometimes you won't know for twenty years. And it's only when the student comes back and says, "Remember what I learned in that Donnelley case? I said such and such, and I was right and they were wrong, and I finally got to put it into practice."

So part of the answer is that we don't know. We don't know for many, many years. Now, we make some judgments along the way. In one case we simply judge: Did they get the substantive learnings? Did they come upon them without my having to lead them all that carefully? If they picked it up, they did the preparation. They did the heavy lifting.

The second way I judge is not by that class, but by subsequent classes. In Donnelley, I introduced organic and mechanistic. If my next two or three classes give them an opportunity to apply that distinction and they get it, and they do it on their own, even when it's not in the assignment questions, clearly Donnelley was a success.

Third is I judge by the level of engagement. And engagement doesn't mean "rah, rah." It doesn't mean people climbing off the walls. It means intense concentration on the issues: people really following, and listening, and building on one another. Sometimes it is highly enthusiastic: lots of energy. Sometimes, though, it can be slow because people are thinking.

The final way I judge is by looking at exams, because exams are typically an opportunity to apply everything they've learned. An exam is typically a case which you have to analyze from the standpoint of the course. You can bring lots of frameworks to play. It almost doesn't matter which frameworks, so long as the frameworks they choose are relevant. And I can usually tell by the exam how much they've really learned from individual cases.

Clip #2 - What makes a great class? (0:31) Nanda

PROFESSOR ASHISH NANDA: I think that a good class should hit at three levels: at the level of the head, where you learn something intellectual; the level of the heart, where you feel passionately about something; and at the level of the gut, where you say, "If I were in that place, I would have done that," and it makes you action-oriented. If you hit all three, you've got a good case.