

7C's Speaker Series

Disrupting your Course, Hacking your Education

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What do I mean when I say that you need to Hack your education? Let me be clear that I do not mean you need to hack into the computer systems here at UNT!!! This is about an existential attitude toward how you learn not about illegal activity.

Perhaps I might quote something posted by freelance writer & blogger Audrey Watters to clarify:

"Hack Education" can mean... To break in and break down. To cut to the core ... To pull systems apart. To "MacGyver" things back together. To re-code. To rebuild.¹

For me as an anarchocynic, the key here is DISRUPTION. And again, I do not necessarily mean being a disruptive influence in the classroom. Rather, disruption speaks to breaking down what stands between you & knowledge. Where we must start disrupting is in our own habits. Then we must figure out what habits society has developed that need disruption.

So if you are not willing to disrupt yourself, you will not accomplish much by disrupting social customs. But if you have begun the task of breaking your own bad habits, you can turn to how the public orders & behaves. Our instructional & research institutions are a prime avenue for establishing habits in our society's youth.

We can be instructed by someone. We can be taught. We can be mentored. But in the end, education is how we lead ourselves out of the habits we have taken on through personal choices or social situation. So tonight, we will be dialoguing about how to productively disrupt the customary course to knowledge and how to creatively hack the rapidly evolving networks of 21st Century pedagogy. We will be talking about how to disrupt the educational habitat. We will be discussing the need for all of us to become HACKADEMICS.

¹ <http://audreywatters.com/index.php>