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Article Review #1

ELP 6450: Administration or Educational Resources

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**Article Review of *Brain-Friendly Learning for Teachers***

Summary:

In his article *Brain-Friendly Learning for Teachers*, David A. Sousa (2009) argues that in order for professional development to be successful, development leaders and planners need to understand that it is not only a matter of planning high-interest, high-need topics, but also a brain-based learning component as well.

Sousa (2009) shares how research shows that “we remember the best and worst things that happen to us while forgetting emotionally neutral events” (p. 1). He continues by connecting the idea that teachers who are forced to attend or have no vested interest in the topic will struggle to make positive emotional connections.

Having teachers provide feedback to help make positive connections is another idea that Sousa (2009) uses to encourage successful and meaningful professional development. Furthermore, he lists ways that leaders can ensure that effective feedback procedures are implemented and followed.

The final section of this article explains how past experiences and meaning have a direct impact on teacher’s learning and understanding of presented material. Sousa (2009) also lists five important steps, including: connecting new information to current roles, presenting the topics in enough depth for thorough understanding, using a variety of presentation techniques, use action research, and use in-school study groups.

The article concludes with a reminder that there are many components of successful professional development.

Analysis:

As I read this article, I knew that it answered one of the many questions Melinda and I had planned to research. This research is not only timely, relevant, and supports the question for our presentation about what effective and timely professional development looks like, it also gives research-based, easy to understand steps. These steps will help ensure that future attempts to develop teacher’s understandings will be done in a way that is most likely to be meaningful and lasting. With the many explicit steps and ideas, I know that this article will help to shape not only our final paper, but also future discussions around upcoming professional development opportunities.