Comparison of Teacher-Centered and Learner-Centered Paradigms

From Figure 1-2 in Huba and Freed, *Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning*, 2000
What I know best I have taught…

…the individuals learning the most in the teacher-centered classrooms are the teachers there. They have reserved for themselves the very conditions that promote learning:

actively seeking new information, integrating it with what is known, organizing it in a meaningful way, and explaining it to others.

Page 35, Huba and Freed, Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning, 2000
First, an exercise:

1. Individually, write down five words or short phrases that come to mind when you think of: Student-Centered Learning

2. In small groups, select three “most important”.

3. Finally, prepare to report out one choice.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Knowledge is transmitted from professor to student.

Learner-Centered

Students construct knowledge through gathering and synthesizing information and integrating it with the general skills of inquiry, communication, critical thinking, and problem solving.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Students passively receive information.

Learner-Centered
Students are actively involved.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered

Emphasis is on acquisition of knowledge outside the context in which it will be used.

Learner-Centered

Emphasis is on using and communicating knowledge effectively to address enduring and emerging issues and problems in real-life contexts.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Instructor’s role is to be primary information giver and primary evaluator.

Learner-Centered
Instructor’s role is to coach and facilitate. Instructor and students evaluate learning together.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Teaching and assessing are separate.

Learner-Centered
Teaching and assessing are intertwined.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Assessment is used to monitor learning.

Learner-Centered
Assessment is used to promote and diagnose learning.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Emphasis is on right answers.

Learner-Centered
Emphasis is on generating better questions and learning from errors.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Desired learning is assessed indirectly through the use of objectively scored tests.

Learner-Centered
Desired learning is assessed directly through papers, projects, performances, portfolios, and the like.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Focus is on a single discipline.

Learner-Centered
Approach is compatible with interdisciplinary investigation.
Comparison of Paradigms

Teacher-Centered
Culture is competitive and individualistic.

Learner-Centered
Culture is cooperative, collaborative, and supportive.
Comparison of Paradigms

**Teacher-Centered**
Only students are viewed as learners.

**Learner-Centered**
Professor and students learn together.
Outcomes?

Moving away from:

Are students getting the right answer?
Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can students demonstrate the qualities that we value in educated persons, the qualities we expect of college graduates?
Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can students gather and evaluate new information, think critically, reason effectively, and solve problems?
Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can [students] communicate clearly, drawing upon evidence to provide a basis for argumentation?
Outcomes?

Moving to:

Do [students’] decisions and judgments reflect understanding of universal truths[/concepts] in the humanities and arts [etc.]?
Outcomes?

Moving to:

Can [students] work respectfully and productively with others?
Outcomes?

Moving to:

Do [students] have self-regulating qualities like persistence and time management that will help them reach long-term goals?
Questions and Reflections