

# A Fearless Campus

Fearless Classroom Asynchronous Workshop

Challenges To A Fearless Classroom

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## Consequences of a Fearful Academic Environment

#### A fearful learning environment can cause the brain to:

- Lose its ability to correctly interpret learning clues from the environment.
- Stay with tried and true behaviors.
- Lose its ability to index, store, and access information.
- Become limited in its responses.
- Lose ability to perceive relationships and patterns.
- Become less able to use higher-level thinking.
- Lose long-term memory capacity (perhaps related to above).
- Overreact to stimuli in a phobic-like manner

(Jensen, 2008, pp. 43-44)



## Obstacles to A Fearless Classroom

#### **Student Fear**

- Student's fear that someone is going to judge them
- Students fear that they might look like fools
- Students don't know most of their classmates
- Students don't feel comfortable speaking up in front of unknown people
- The student group is large, and they think someone else will pick up the slack
- Students fear grades (Deming)



### Risks that students face in a Fearful Classroom



- To appear ignorant when asking a question
- To feel incompetent in general or in a specific task when admitting an error (or simply call attention to it), asking for help or accepting the probability of failing
- To be perceived as negative when criticizing past or present events
- To be seen as intrusive when asking for feedback

## Obstacles to A Fearless Classroom

# Student's lack of interest and engagement in the class

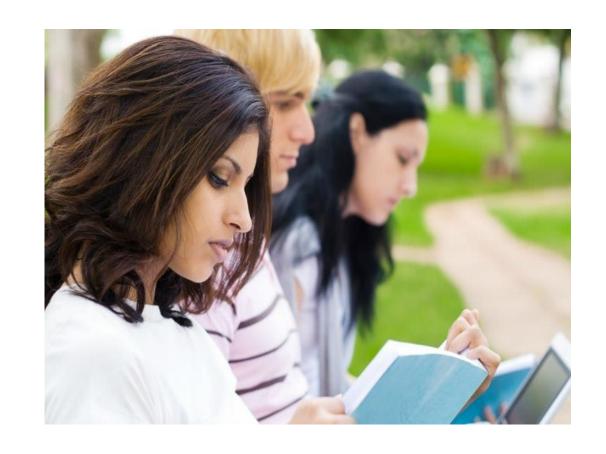
- Students have a lack of interested in the topic
- Students don't think they have something interesting to contribute



# Obstacles to A Fearless Classroom

#### **Student Personality**

- In the position of the student, the student automatically becomes vulnerable and perhaps feeling inferior to the professor/instructor.
- The student may feel like an imposter in a classroom where the student assumes other students may be more knowledgeable than them.
- Misconceptions can be attributed to cultural, social factors, and student temperament (introversion/shyness)
- There can be a spectrum of factors that are unique to each individual student and classroom that will allow for self misconceptions.





### Fear In The Classroom: A National Concern

There are many more factors and challenges that as faculty we may not think about in trying to engage our students.

This video show's another challenge to a Fearless Classroom and psychological safety that is a national concern.





