

From Combat to College: Teaching the Transition



- **Noting the cultural shift:** Reintegrate ERAU veteran-students into academic & civilian cultures.
- **Examining pedagogical methods:** Assess the effectiveness of teaching methodologies in traditional classrooms, in military-only classes, in hybrid classes and in faculty learning groups.



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Faculty 4 Veterans: A DB Campus Faculty Learning Group

<http://daytonabeach.erau.edu/military/faculty-4-veterans/index.html>



ERAU Student Veterans' Recommendations: Issues for Faculty Mentors to Consider

Transition:
Military to
College

Gray Area that
Veteran
Students Inhabit

Academic
Advising

Teaching – and
Utilizing – Non-
traditional Students
in the Classroom

Course Work:
Focus...Focus...
Focus

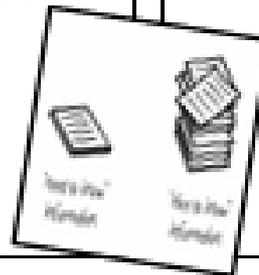


HU 145: Writing Component

Teaching the Transition from **Military** to **Civilian** Discourse

Rhetorical Practices Inherited from Military Culture

- *Syntactic constructions: spare-to-cryptic in style*
- *Rhetorical mode of preference*
 - *information-oriented*
 - *process-oriented*
 - *"need to know"*
- *Student-veteran typically resists*
 - *recommendations for revision – particularly, for these goals:*
 - *Deeper analysis*
 - *Wider critical thinking*

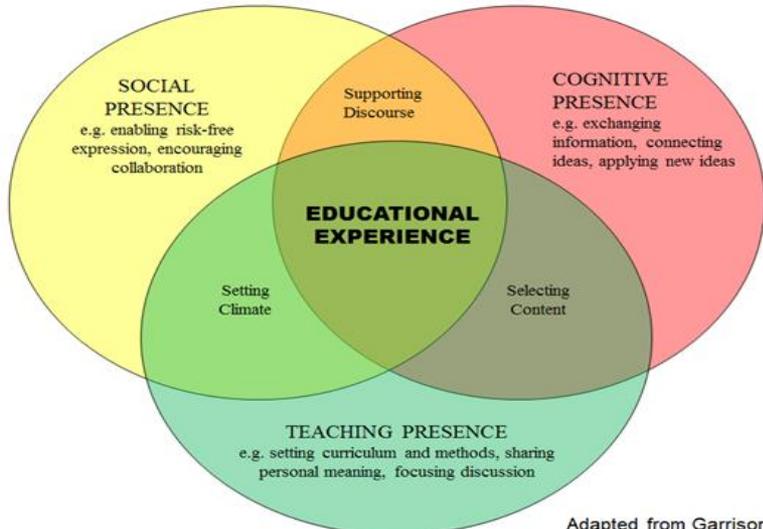


Rhetorical Expectations of Academic & Civilian Culture

- *Complex syntactic constructions*
- *Rhetorical modes of preference:*
 - *Argument*
 - *Analysis*
- *College Professor typically encourages*
 - *Analytical thinking*
 - *Critical thinking*

Hybrid Course for Student Veterans

Focus on Community & Service



Adapted from Garrison and Vaughan (2008)



Recent Research on Best Practices: Cultivating a Student-Centered Learning Climate



- The **physical** learning space:
lights, curtains, action!
- The **inter-personal** learning space:
Student seating and teacher in motion

- Tapping the military culture for teaching methods: *sponsorship; collaboration; dependency.*
- Accenting the positive & ending deficit-model training: *seeing the benefits vets bring to classroom*
- ERAU's student veteran vs. others: *PTSD, TBI, absenteeism*

