

Lev Vygotsky and His Central Ideas

May 2009

The central ideas of Vygotsky, followed by Vygotsky in *wink-speak*, with all apologies to the legacy Lev.

Wink, J., & Putney, L. (2002). *A vision of Vygotsky*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Higher levels of cognition are expressed through language, which is developed in social processes.

Or, talk is our tool.

Social processes affect higher mental functions.

Or, we talk with others, and we get smarter.

Our cognitive capacities are social in origin.

Or, we generate our own knowledge – kids do, too.

The interactive process between language and thoughts affects both.

Or, words and ideas join together to help us understand.

Our social, historical, and cultural contexts affects our thought, language, perception, problem-solving, and cognition.

Or, our lived experiences make a difference.

Central to being human is manipulating signs and mediating meaning, which is all determined by social relations.

Or, talking with and listening to others, determines the path we take.

Mediation of meaning is socially-grounded.

Or, if students are denied the use of their dominant language, they are denied equal access to education.

JWink(Lev Vygotsky and His Central Ideas) May 2009