

Cutting the bull: Lies Your Teacher Told You

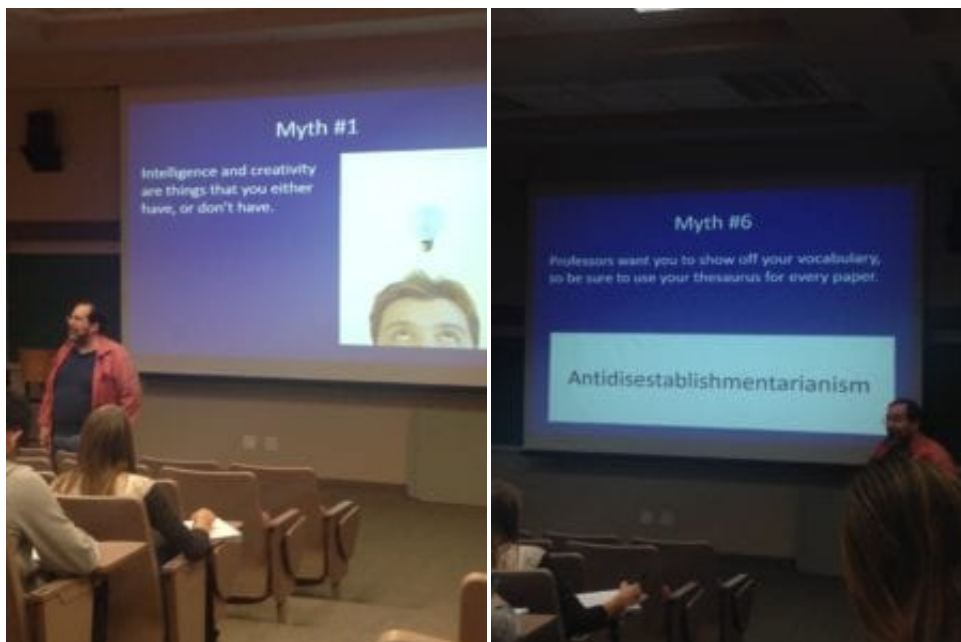
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We've been hearing about the same rules and stigmas throughout our educational lives. Finally, there's a savior right here at SUNY Broome to tell us all how so many of the things that have been taught to us are complete (to quote them man himself) bullshit.

The man I'm speaking of is none other than Dr. William Altman, a Psychology Professor here who delivered a lecture on "Lies Your Teacher Told You." Unsurprisingly, there are many. During his very straightforward slideshow presentation on Sept. 24, he became one of the cast members from Mythbusters, debunking every common rule or belief we've been led to follow since grade school. Not only did he provide solutions to these myths, but also presented extensive evidence to back up his assertions.

It didn't surprise me that IQ test aren't accurate and creativity can't be measured — or even that there's no such thing as "learning styles" and that it's better to take notes by hand than type them on a computer. Some of this seems like common sense to me. What truly surprised me was how the lecture *engaged* us, breaking the fourth wall. Dr. Altman brought a down-to-earth and real persona to the table, which really resonated with his audience, which consisted of both teachers and students.

His very real, raw lecture was a wake-up call for all of us who attended. He asked us questions and even pointed out some of the issues and mistakes that other professors were making in their teaching. Dr. Altman spared no one in order for us to learn and use the right methods to achieve success.





Here are the myths he debunked:

Myth 1 – Intelligence and creativity are things that you have, or you don't have.

Myth 2 – You have a particular learning style.

Myth 3- Multitasking helps you get more done.

Myth 4- You work better under pressure.

Myth 5- A major paper just takes an all-nighter.

Myth 6- Professors want you to show off your vocabulary, so be sure to use your thesaurus for every paper.

Myth 7- Cramming helps you learn.

Myth 8- Highlighting is better than taking notes.

Myth 9- Taking notes on a laptop is better than taking notes by hand.

Myth 10- Re-reading is the best way to learn.

Myth 11- E-books are better than paper.

Myth 12- Never change your answers on a multiple choice test. Always go with your gut.

Myth 13- Attending a lecture like this will change your life.

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