
Learner Autonomy - Statements

What is learner autonomy?

Look at the following 10 statements adapted from Sinclair (2000) about accepted areas of learner autonomy. Work with a partner and fill in the gaps, then check your answers.

Do you agree with all of these?

Which are the most important do you think?

1. Autonomy involves a w_____ness on the part of the learner to take responsibility for their own learning.
2. The capacity and w_____ness of learners to take such responsibility is not necessarily innate.
3. Complete autonomy is an i_____tic goal.
4. There are d_____s of autonomy.
5. The degrees of autonomy are unstable and variable.
6. Autonomy is not simply a matter of placing learners in situations where they have to be ind_____nt.
7. Developing autonomy requires conscious awareness of the learning process – i.e. conscious reflection and decision-making.
8. Promoting autonomy is not simply a matter of teaching strategies.
9. Autonomy can take place both inside and ou_____ the classroom.
10. Autonomy is interpreted differently by different cu_____.

The other three statements were:

Autonomy is a construct of capacity.

Autonomy has a social as well as an individual dimension.

The promotion of autonomy has a political as well as psychological dimension.

Sinclair, B. (2000). Learner autonomy: The next phase? In B. Sinclair, I. McGrath & T. Lamb (Eds.), Learner autonomy, teacher autonomy: Future directions. Harlow: Longman.

