Marginality & Mattering:
2 Pieces in a Big Puzzle

Connecting Tutoring to Student Retention
Student Retention & Persistence: Getting Students Connected

- Getting Connected
Vincent Tinto (1993) identifies three major sources of student departure:

- academic difficulties,
- the inability of individuals to resolve their educational and occupational goals,
- their failure to become or remain incorporated in the intellectual and social life of the institution.

Tinto's "Model of Institutional Departure" states that, to persist, students need integration into formal (academic performance) and informal (faculty/staff interactions) academic systems and formal (extracurricular activities) and informal (peer-group interactions) social systems.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Based on Tinto’s model, how does tutoring/learning assistance help to integrate the student?

2. In your opinion what is student retention/student persistence?

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
This is great, but how do you make it happen?
Marginality Vs. Mattering

Marginality

- A sense of not fitting in and can lead to self consciousness, irritability and depression. For some, these feelings can be permanent conditions.

- Feelings of marginality often occur when individuals take on new roles, especially when they are uncertain about what a new role entails.

Mattering (5 Aspects)

- Attention- the feeling that one is noticed.

- Importance-the belief that one is cared about.

- Ego Extension- the feeling that someone else will be proud of what one does or will sympathize with ones failure.

- Dependence- the feeling of feeling needed.

- Appreciation- the feeling that ones efforts are appreciated by others.

Schlossberg Says…

“The creation of environments that clearly indicate to all students that they matter will urge them to greater involvement… Clearly, institutions that focus on mattering and greater student involvement will be more successful in creating campuses where students are motivated to learn, where their retention is high, and ultimately, where their institutional loyalty for the short- and long-term future is ensured (Schlossberg, Lynch, and Chickering, 1989).”
Case Study Discussion

Frank was a first term, 21 year old student that was homeschooled by his mother. He has come to your table asking for help with a Math 65/Writing 115 assignment.

1. Based on Schlossberg’s Theory, how might Frank feel marginalized?

2. Based on Schlossberg’s Theory, how could you help him to matter?