Using the Learning Cycle to Teach Biology Concepts and Reasoning Patterns

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Abstract: The learning cycle method of teaching is introduced in the context of biology instruction. The learning cycle is a three-phase inquiry approach consisting of exploration, term introduction, and concept application. The approach has proven effective at helping students construct concepts and conceptual systems as well as develop more effective reasoning patterns, primarily because it allows students to use If/then/Therefore reasoning to test their own ideas and to participate in the knowledge construction process. Three types of learning cycles exist (i.e., descriptive, empirical-abductive, and hypothetical-predictive) that represent points along a continuum from descriptive to hypothetico-predictive science. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]; (AN 5257629)