Thought Vectors and Nuggets / Patch Nineteen

Be Kind (I need water to grow)

“Sounds corny maybe, but honestly these brief phone calls have totally changed the tone in my online courses, and this extends beyond netiquette. I strongly suspect that my students are more forgiving of my mistakes and are less likely to squabble over marks / appeal grades because of this simple connection made early on.”

BY JESSICA O’REILLY, CAMBRIAN COLLEGE

Jessica O’Reilly’s comment about taking the time to make brief phone calls to students resonates with me. I have always thought of these calls as helping my students to grow, just like watering my plants. I am an avid gardener (it’s in my genes) and I know that my plants grow best when I water them. Sure, I can leave it up to mother nature and wait for the rain to come, but the rain may not come for days or even weeks. My plants will still grow, but they won’t grow to their full potential. When I water my plants in between the rain, they are vibrant and perform at their best. This is the same way I see my students, they need some water once in a while, and a brief phone call is often all they need to get through whatever they are going through…COVID19 and learning from home, health and family concerns, job search woes or group work that doesn’t feel like they are in a group. I snapped this photo of my watering can in my garden. It reminds me of my relationship with my students…sometimes they just need a little water.

