Conceptualizing Conducive Contexts for Creativity: More than Just Fancy Alliteration

CALS Mini-Teaching Symposium – Spring 2013

CREATIVITY

cre·a·tiv·i·ty /ˌkrēəˈtivitē/

“The process of having original ideas that have value.”

Many definitions: http://celestra.ca/top-10-creativity-definitions/

Ability to produce something new through imaginative skill, whether a new solution to a problem, a new method of doing, or a new artistic object or form. The term generally refers to a richness of ideas and originality of thinking.

Latin term creō “to create, make”

CULTIVATING CONDUCTIVE CONTEXTS FOR CREATIVITY

You cannot mandate productivity or provide the tools to people become their best.

— Steve Jobs

The pioneer scientist must have a vivid intuitive imagination, for new ideas are not generated by deduction, but by artistically creative imagination.

— Max Planck

If you’re not prepared to be wrong, you’ll never come up with anything original. And by the time they get to be adults, most kids have lost that capacity. They have become frightened of being wrong.

— Sir Ken Robinson

You cannot mandate productivity, you must provide the tools to let people become their best.

— Steve Jobs

3/28/2013
Convergent Thinking

Fact ➔ Question ➔ Answer

Divergent thinking

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Creativity in the classroom
Mind-Mapping Activity

**WHY?**
- Finding innovative and original solutions
- Inspiration to make new connections
- Review to understand the Big Picture
- Make connection to previous learned material
- Integrate old and new knowledge ➝ novel ideas
- Break down complex problems and solve small questions
- Create new meaning

**HOW?**
- Inspiration.com (software and app); many

**Who?**
Anyone - Subject and age independent

**When?**
Any time

Starry Starry Night – on agar plate

Concept/Mind Map:
The process of having original ideas, that have value

Creativity in my classroom?
- creativity
- inspiration
- curiosity
- connections
- innovation
- big picture
- ageless
- left right brain
- ideas
- problem solving
- puzzle

Let's Do It!

Reviewing the Literature
- The ability to produce work that is novel and appropriate (Lubart, 1998; Ochse, 1990; Sternberg, 1988)
  - Novel – Original or Unexpected
  - Appropriate – Useful and Adaptive Concerning Time
- Restraints
- But how do we contextualize that?
Torrance & Moving Beyond Barriers

- Many followers believe that they are not creative because of those past experiences that may have inhibited their creativity – Unlearning ‘Simon Sez’
- Torrance (1999) writes that creativity is teachable
- Through specific skill development, the advancement of philosophical perspectives, and strategic practice we can enhance and supplement the creativity of learners (1999)
- Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, & Elaboration

Creating the Environment

- Edward de Bono – Lateral Thinking (1967)
- Effort in the same direction (approach) will not necessarily succeed
- Addressing Alternatives
- Nancy Kline – Time to Think (2001)
  - Attention, Appreciation, Encouragement,
  - Creating Space (removing fear & allowing depth)
  - Information, Sometimes
  - Play

Tangible Example

Jimmy Valvano, North Carolina State University
Assessment & Evaluation

• Removing Barriers
• If creativity is teachable, then it is quantifiable as well (Torrance)
• Novel & Appropriate (Sternberg)
• Examples

Other Resources

Ken Robinson says schools kill creativity
http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html
Sir Ken Robinson: Bring on the learning revolution!
http://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_bring_on_the_revolution.html
Itay Talgam: Lead like the great conductors (creating space)
http://www.ted.com/talks/itay_talgam_lead_like_the_great_conductors.html
David Kelley: How to build your creative confidence
http://www.ted.com/talks/david_kelley_how_to_build_your_creative_confidence.html
Teri Balser: Teaching as if learning mattered
http://www.inspiration.com/article/teri_balser.html
10 ways mind mapping can help creative minds
http://mindmappingsoftwareblog.com/10-ways-mind-mapping-can-help-creative-minds/
Mind Tools
http://www.mindtools.com/index.html#np
How Creative Are You?
Inspiration Software
http://www.inspiration.com

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