ENHANCING CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING FOR MORE EFFECTIVE TEACHING

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"Strength"

- In your mind, think about how you would define strength.
- Share your definition with a partner.
Select a picture that identifies strength.
Creative Thinking:

- Creative thinking means being able to look at something in a new way.
- Creative people have the ability to devise new ways to carry out tasks, solve problems, and meet challenges.
- Creative thinking can help departments and organizations move in more productive directions.
“Organizations need creative perspectives and solutions to conceive new products, services and process ideas, marketing strategies and ways of allocating and using resources. Creativity is the magic word that can turn around an organization, company, division, or department” (Van Gundy, 2005, p. 4).

Participant Outcomes:

• Acquire an understanding of creative thinking in relation to your own thought processes.
• Gain knowledge about the importance and benefits of creativity on learning and in your own professional practice.
• Engage in self-development of the creative whole brain.
• Understand several best practices, strategies, and tools for fostering creativity in teaching.
Bloom’s Taxonomy
Themes for Today’s Presentation

- The Importance of Creativity
- Making Visual Connections
- Enhancing Right Brain Thinking
- The Big Picture
- Mind Mapping
- Making Connections
- Creative Problem Solving
- Personal Goal Setting
SEEING THE BIG PICTURE
What do you see?

- $9 \times 1 = 7$
- $9 \times 2 = 18$
- $9 \times 3 = 27$
- $9 \times 4 = 36$
- $9 \times 5 = 45$
Use three phrases to describe a rose.
Describe what you see.
Construction workers building a school were asked: “What are you doing?”

- I am laying bricks.
- I am building a wall.
- I am building a school.
- I am building a place of opportunity where dreams come true.

Cathedral Thinkers
In Drucker’s version, when asked what they were doing, the first stonecutter replied:

“I am making a living”.

The second kept on hammering while he said:

“I am doing the best job of stone cutting in the entire country.”

The third stonecutter, when asked the same question said:

“I am building a cathedral.”

[I am building a structure that will help make the world a better place.]

Which worker sees the “Big Picture?”
What sets the last stonecutter apart?
Watch a parade on Main St. and you’ll see the parts of the parade as they pass by...

Watch that parade from a helicopter above, you’ll see the parade all at once and not one segment at a time.
“Just like the view from above, the right side sees the ‘big picture’ and without its use, you would not reach your full potential.”

- Kosten, 2016, p. 7
Brain Hemispheres

- Left brain deals with language, numbers, analyzing etc.
- Right brain deals with creativity, music, color, special awareness, imagination etc.

Note 5 activities that you do on a weekly basis and decide which are more right-brain dominate.

Make a list of 5 activities that are right-brained and from this list decide how you could use these activities to strengthen your right-brain hemisphere and enhance your creativity.
Attributes of Cathedral Thinkers

- Knowing not just how and what to do but knowing why.
- Viewing the whole and not just its parts.
- Seeing a vision, a sense of the bigger picture.
- Having the ability to see significance in work, beyond the obvious.
CHUNKING INFORMATION
Chunking Information

Word Clusters

Hat
Cat
Sat
Bat

Making Connections by Changing the last letter:
Had
Cap
Saw
Bag

Making Connections by Changing the middle letter:
Hot
Cup
Sew
Bug
Connections/Grouping

Cat
Bat
Bug

Cap
Sew
Hot

Had
Saw
Sat
Describe connections between/among these:
Mind Mapping
Mind Maps

• Mimic the way our brain thinks by bouncing ideas off one another.
• Help link and group concepts together.
• Are intuitive ways to organize thoughts.
• Help us generate more ideas and find deeper meaning in our thinking.
Reprogramming our Brains
According to Dr. Ian Robertson from the center for BrainHealth at the University of Texas at Dallas:

Brains work out of habit...”When you do something unfamiliar, your brain fires off neurotransmitters that improve communications between its different regions.”
Turn Around Activity

- State a challenge simply and clearly.
- Reverse each assumption.
- Use each reversed assumption as a trigger for a new idea.
- Present Banking Challenge.
Turn Around Activities on Wellness

- Helping teachers take their 30 minute lunch break and not work.
- Helping EMT’s manage stress.
- Helping office managers stay physically fit.
- Helping employees become more creative.

- Present 5 of each:
- Assumptions...
- Reverse Assumptions...
- Using Reverse Assumptions to Suggest Ideas
Summarizing Key Points

- Creativity involves activating both brain hemispheres.
- Visuals help inspire creativity.
- Making connections involves critical thinking and generating ideas, thus promoting solutions to challenges.
- Holistic thinking as in seeing the big picture promotes optimal learning.

- L. Kosten 2019
“Creative solutions can provide flexibility by increasing our options and helping us cope and adapt. The more ideas we have the more selective avenues will be at our disposal. New ideas can open up new worlds, new insights, and new ways of doing things. Creativity, in short, can help us reinvent ourselves and our organizations” (Van Gundy, 2005, p. 3).
Wrap Up

Give one example for each:

- What did you learn?
- What did you like?
- What will you use?
Thank you for Participating

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

Henry David Thoreau