Creative Pedagogy: Incorporating Zest in the Classroom
Objectives

• Attendees will understand the benefits of creative pedagogy
• Attendees will review ways to implement creativity into courses
• Attendees will explore how faculty across campus are using creativity in their courses
• BONUS: Attendees will practice a creative strategy that can be implemented in the classroom

• Opening Question: What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘creativity’?
What is Creativity?

• What is creativity?
  • The relationship between a human being and the mysteries of inspiration
  • Elizabeth Gilbert (Big Magic)

• Kolb’s Experiential Learning Cycle
  • Concrete Experience
  • Reflective Observation
  • Abstract Conceptualization
  • Active Experimentation
Why Incorporate Creativity?

• STUDENT ENGAGEMENT!
  • Incorporates cognitive process and affective experience to deepen learning
  • Establishes and deepens interpersonal connection
  • Increases self-awareness and empathy
  • Cultivates reflexivity
  • Enhances critical thinking and problem-solving skills
  • Promotes risk taking
  • Models healthy use of openness, flexibility, and spontaneity
Incorporate Creativity When:

- Facilitating difficult dialogue
- Introducing abstract concepts
- Teaching specific skills
- Exploring and creating new ideas
- Teambuilding for the entire classroom

- In what additional situations might creativity be helpful in the classroom?
Examples of Creative Strategies in the Classroom

- Improv/Icebreaker Activities
- Community-Based Learning
- Wisdom Jar
- Art-Based Activities (i.e. collage)
- Movement (i.e. spectrum responses)
- Metaphor
- Kahoot Quizzes
- Creative Assignments
  - Create Your Own Adventure/Assignment Menu
  - Multimedia Submission Options
  - Creative Projects
Word Collage

- Give each student a blank piece of paper, or have them take out a piece of paper
- Prompt students to write words on the piece of paper that are associated with the topic
- In pairs or small groups have students compare and contrast their word collages and begin engaging in a larger discussion about the topic
- Example topics: Self-care, global warming, popular culture
- Prompt: Write words that come to mind when thinking about ________ including feelings, fears, limitations, advantages, behaviors, etc. Whatever comes to mind.
Wisdom Jar

• At the end of the semester:
  • Students are provided a jar and slips of paper
  • On the slips of paper, students write the following:
    • Advice for future students
    • What they learned
    • Successes and challenges experienced
    • Things that aided in their success
• At the beginning of the semester:
  • New students read and share the wisdom from the previous students
Need Help Getting Started?


Closing Discussion

• How have you implemented creativity in the classroom?
• What are barriers for implementing creativity in the classroom?
• Were there any creative strategies you learned today that you will attempt to implement with in classes? Which ones?
• How have students responded to creativity in the classroom?
• What are you taking away from this time together?
References


References


