Put Your Creative Hat On!

Creativity for Teachers

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The Centre for English Teaching
In this workshop you will have the opportunity to:

- Gain an increased understanding of what creativity is according to the latest research
- Gain an increased awareness of habits that can help foster creativity
- Reflect on the implications of creativity research on curriculum development
- Reflect on your own personalized creative routine
Overview

What is creativity

Creativity Habits for Teachers

Creativity and Curriculum Design

Your creativity routine
1. How would you define a ‘creative idea’?
2. Is creativity innate or is it a skill?
3. How creative are you on a scale from 1 to 10? (1- being bad at drawing in school; 10 – being Albert Einstein or Steve Jobs)
The 4 myths of creativity

- The right brain hemisphere is the seat of creativity
- Scientists are smart, artists are creative
- Creativity means having wacky ideas that no one else had before you
- Creativity means creating something from scratch
Our Brain on Creativity

Less activity – especially in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (our area for planning, memory, organization, and regulation)

More activity – especially in the medial prefrontal cortex (our area to learn associations between context, events, and emotional responses)

“(…) dopamine influences novelty seeking and creative drive. (…) Creative drive is not identical to skill—the latter depends more on neocortical association areas. However, drive correlates better with successful creative output than skill does.”

Creativity is just **connecting things**. When you ask creative people how they did something, they feel a little guilty because they didn’t really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while. That’s because they were able to **connect experiences they’ve had** and **synthesize new things**. And the reason they were able to do that was that they’ve **had more experiences** or they have **thought more** about their experiences than other people.

**Steve Jobs**

Creativity – making novel associations between events, ideas, experiences and emotions

Science of creativity – executive brain functions relaxed; de-focused attention; no-censorship; pleasure
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Your creativity routine
Can we really talk about creativity habits? We know that most people have creative ideas in the shower. Or other random places.
Premise

executive brain functions relaxed; de-focused attention; no-censorship; pleasure

making novel associations between events, ideas, experiences and emotions

Task: Taking into account the above underpinnings of creativity, what can we do to tap into it on a daily basis?
1. Trying and failing is better than never trying at all

The Creativity Spectrum

Nothing          Something          Excellence
Creativity Habits for Teachers

2. Make time for curiosity.
3. Keep a notebook with you at all times, even in the shower

4. Embrace constraints

Austin Kleon
@austinkleon

Six word memoir: “King size bed acquired. Marriage saved.”
7:23 AM - 23 Aug 2014

12 RETWEETS 42 FAVORITES
Creativity Habits for Teachers

5. It’s the remix! Combine ideas in novel ways
6. Plan disengagement and distraction: The outer – inner technique
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Your creativity routine
Task. Put the theory into practice.

Design an **engaging and creative** lesson. These are your constraints:

- **Topic**: genre analysis of discussion essay on offshoring
- **Analysis options**:
  - Group 1: Generic structure;
  - Group 2: Rhetorical structure;
  - Group 3: Cohesion;
  - Group 4: Academic style / register
- **Target students**: direct entry course students from China with an IELTS 7 requirement
What is creativity
Creativity Habits for Teachers
Creativity and Curriculum Design
Your creativity routine
How are you going to incorporate creativity habits into your teaching or curriculum development routine?
Put Your Creative Hat On!

Any Questions?


