CREATIVE TEACHING OR TEACHING CREATIVELY

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The present article focuses towards some insights into creative teaching as an interesting and effective tool in promoting students' fluency and enhancing their creative thinking. The concepts creative teaching and teaching creatively are presented, described and analyzed. An attempt is made to answer the question: "How not to get bored, both teacher and students, during the lessons?" and some ways of fighting boredom in the classroom are proposed.

Nowadays the main goal and the objectives of teachers is to prepare the young people for life and work in an increasingly uncertain and rapidly changing economic and social environment. When you have been working for a very long period of time teaching students, you reach a time when it seems that you already know all the manuals by heart and all the activities that can be planned, designed and used during the class have been already performed. Sometimes you feel bored as a teacher and respectively your students are bored during your classes. Let me tell you that you will never be bored in class or unsatisfied with your students if you employ creativity in all the activities you perform during your classes.

Joubert M. [1, p.21] observes: “Creative teaching is an art. One cannot teach teachers how to be creative; there is no fail-safe recipe or routine. Some strategies may help to promote creative thinking, but teachers need to develop a full repertoire of skills which they can adapt to different situations.” An important step in becoming a creative teacher and remain a creative teacher during all your teaching career is to develop your awareness of yourself as a creative being because if you have a flexible and creative mindset you will be able to teach creatively and to foster creativity in your students. Creative teachers demonstrate curiosity and should possess a genuine desire to learn. They must also be interested in and curious about their students both as people and as learners.

Creative teaching means involvement of teachers in making learning more interesting and effective using imaginative approaches in the classroom. A creative teacher imagines him or herself in the position of students. Research suggests that “effective teaching is essentially the same as “creative” teaching” [2, p.386]. If using creativity during classes the lesson will become more challenging, engaging and motivating for both teachers and students. Creativity skills, among others, involve curiosity, open mindedness, imagination and problem solving. Creativity also, among other skills which students acquire during their studies, will help them not only to survive but to thrive in our fast changing world.

Creativity helps students to be:

- Motivated and ambitious for change;
- Confident in their capabilities and the validity in their own viewpoint;
- Able to transfer their creativity skills to other contexts;
- Able to lead and work well with others.

When implementing creativity into the classroom it is important to consider the idea of promoting students to think “outside the box”. “Creativity is not only desirable but also necessary because it involves co-construction of meaning and promotes an active role of the learner” [3, p.350]. This a valid point as it enforces that creative teaching promotes learning and it enables students to create meaning. The way in which a teacher teaches a task with purpose to be creative there are opportunities to be: imaginative, purposeful, original, valuable.

Creative teaching has the potential to inspire deep learning, using inventive activities and stimulating contexts that can capture the imagination of students.

The benefits of creative teaching are:

- Encourages students to become independent in their learning and thinking skills;
- Enables students to look post the norm;
- Allows students to further their thinking;
- Gives students an attitude to create and try something new.

The barriers to teaching creatively are:

Teachers have a busy schedule which means that they do not have the time to plan something creative and new;

- Sometimes students, being used to a different type of teaching, cannot accept change.

If we are smart we can take advantage of different aspects of the stimulating environment we all live in to help us teach creatively. If we can stimulate our students we have a better chance in keeping them interested in learning more. Being a creative teacher offers more benefits than just holding our students’ attention. If we are able to present the material we are to teach in many different ways, our students have a better chance of understanding it. Being a creative teacher encourages students to be creative learners too.

Most teachers accept that learning is more effective when it is enjoyable, but they are given little direct advice about how to achieve the creative and motivating classrooms that educationalists appeal for. That is why it is up to each of us to try and do our best to be creative and teach creatively. A knowledgeable teacher knows how to do this by studying continuously by himself/herself, by connecting with other teachers in changing and sharing the experience and

expertise, by collecting teaching ideas, by practicing creativity, and by making creativity a daily goal.

Nowadays teachers must be aware that we have to move away from a simple delivery of knowledge/information and we must concentrate on how our students can use this knowledge. Thus creativity, originality and innovation must be at the top of the list in importance now more than at any time before. Changing the world requires changing your mind and being open to possibilities.

References:

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