

APPLYING INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM

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The classroom is a microcosm of the world. This means that learners gain perspectives and ideas through the teaching-learning process. Inside the classroom, there are also endless opportunities for students to discover their personalities, interests, beliefs, values, and personal ideals. That is why it is essential for teachers to facilitate their self and world exploration.

Consequently, inquiry-based learning is an approach teachers can use to employ such facilitation. Inquiry-based learning is defined as a learning process that engages learners by making real-world connections through high-level questioning and exploration.

This unorthodox method of learning incorporates active participation of learners by involving them in posing questions. Here, teachers also bring real-life experiences to the. The basis of this approach is to channel the thought process of the students through queries and help them with “how to think” instead of “what to think.”

This is supported by research in cognitive science. Research has shown us that learners are more likely to remember that they process effortfully, or deeper than what they process shallowly. This is opposed to traditional methods of teaching where students simply follow the teachers’ rules and learning is constrained by memorization.

Some of the inquiry-based learning activities that educators can use are historical novel inquiry, engineering an ideal airplane, mindfulness inquiry, and art in my neighborhood.

In historical novel inquiry, students are provided with a way to view the past through literature and discover people and events that help them make sense of and order the world. Teachers can choose a book that aligns with the curriculum and school's guidelines. Next, teachers can plan opportunities for learners to examine different perspectives. They can also examine letters, diary entries, and excerpts from historical events that can further help them understand the past from a unique point of view.

Engineering an ideal airplane is an exciting activity as it requires the consideration of various factors. To start with this inquiry project, students will be provided with a variety of models and photos of airplanes. Teachers can guide learners by discussing their experiences around planes if there are any. Students can also spend time learning airplane vocabulary such as cargo, regulation, commercial, taxiing, emissions, etc. Afterward, collect student questions and give them space and time to research and plan out their models or designs.

Mindfulness inquiry, on the other hand, is a meditative technique. It is a good example of an approach as it shows that many elements of mindfulness emerge such as acceptance, observation, process, and awareness. Younger learners can also create some kind of game or keep a reflection journal.

Lastly, art in my neighborhood is an activity for learners to show what life is like in their community. Teachers can facilitate an inquiry revolving around the importance and need for representation so that learners can feel very connected to their locality. Students can brainstorm adjectives that are connected with the place they live in. Then, they can choose places to photograph, paint, or draw. Here, there is a fusion of art as they need to consider the space, textures, colors, time, and other nuances.

Students' capability to ask questions is a fundamental characteristic of intelligent learners. Classrooms should not be confined to rote memorization and traditional activities. Questions lead to exploration and exploration leads to discovery.

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<https://blog.futurefocusedlearning.net/inquiry-based-learning-activities>