

TEACHER'S CANVAS: UTILIZING DIGITAL ARTS AS TEACHING METHODOLOGY

by:

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Today, learning of students in primary education demands more than what can be provided by the books, from where words are quite not enough to entertain young learners for longer retention. Hence, teachers employ various strategies that are new to the table of learning, paving way to the invention of concepts related to collaboration, contextualization, and integration. With the efforts of teachers, who continuously promote the improvement of teaching and learning, students are now being exposed to more engaging learning experiences. In line with this, teachers start to play the role of an artist, creating something meaningful out of crafts which matches students learning preferences. In primary education, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 6, students find it easier to learn through visuals and sounds. Therefore, it is a great challenge for teachers to practice navigating the world of technology. To be specific, an application has been found to cater all the visual elements needed to create colorful teaching materials that will aid students' short attention span. It is what we know as Canva: a digital tool for editing, designing, and creating files through the use of moving visual elements, still pictures, and numerous fonts, colors, and templates. According to Partnership Education (2015), Canva is easy to use, cost-effective, versatile, and allows collaboration.

Utilization of digital art can be of great help to make the class time less boring, from motivation to evaluation. The use of Canva is an example of it, which can be done through the help of templates that are already uploaded in the app. Also, it can be used as an empty canvas, from where teachers can release their creativity juices by conceptualizing themes, characters and

elements aligning to the activities they have planned to achieve learning objectives. A literature review of six studies found that using Canva in Science classes boosted motivation, academic performance, and creativity among elementary students. (Aini, et. Al., 2023). Tables and puzzles can also be made in Canva, and it can be modified in various ways. Not to mention how many font styles it has, highlighting impacts to word bubbles that can be used for characters' conversation making students think as if they are watching cartoons though story pictures.

Regardless of all the benefits that Canva can provide, there are also challenges encountered and teacher training is often needed to maximize the use of it. (Aini, et. Al., 2023) However, it is rare to encounter an educator who had mastered the use of digital applications like Canva. Some already have premiums but they seldom use it as a teaching tool and still rely only on books with less interactive features. Lack of efforts can be a contributing factor, but involving teachers in seminars and trainings can be considered the best solution for it, because what's the sense of putting efforts to use technology if they do not know the basics and the right methods to navigate it. Indeed, teachers need to be taught too on how they will improve their teaching styles and a Canva application training can be a potential root of greater change in teaching pedagogy.

To be specific, there are known ways on how to use Canva properly. Tips suggested by Partnership Education in their article How is Canva beneficial to Education (2015) consists the following: First, choosing the right template. Due to the reason that there are helpful templates uploaded in the application, it is usually the first step to select a template in making a presentation. After this, the user should click customize to be able to modify the template and design it bases on their preferences. It is crucial to use elements that will be catchy to elementary learners such as characters, heroes and fictional images that are interactive and colorful. Another tip in making a presentation is inputting game-like elements like guessing games, puzzles, and numbers. Lastly,

align all slides with one theme or use a thematic approach in making the presentation so that learners can easily acquire the lessons. Moreover, importing videos or images is a good way to make the presentation moving or with smooth effects. In terms of formatting of text, it is advised for users to choose a matching font style with a readable size for the students to not have a hard time learning during the discussion. Proper spacing among texts and elements is also effective to maintain harmony which makes it visually appealing. Reducing the amount of text is generally known as it gives a chance for learners to think critically instead of letting them read what's posted.

It is true that Canva application is the new trend in making instructional materials nowadays due to its many features that is very user-friendly. It can be said that it is a testament of technological transformation which is employed in teaching and learning. Therefore, teachers are being encourage to enhance their skill in navigating this easily accessible application. With the help of workshops, the utilization of digital art in education will be more evident. And, teaching will remain a teacher's canvas in this advance world.

References:

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