

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

by:

Roxanne F. Valencia

Teacher III, Roosevelt Elementary School

One of the most essential skills that a student should have is creativity. Multiple strategies have been implemented by educational sectors to improve students' critical thinking and creativity. To encourage creativity in the classroom, teachers underwent training on innovation and creativity. As teachers, we encourage pupils to think creatively throughout tasks. We allow them to create and communicate their ideas. In addition to highlighting the value of creative thinking in education, the OECD paper "Thinking Outside the Box: The PISA 2022 Creative Thinking Assessment" offers a framework for evaluating and developing this ability in students.

The phrase "**thinking outside the box**" is often associated with creativity and problem-solving. Many classrooms use this expression when they feel that students' outputs are becoming too standard or predictable. In education, however, the idea of thinking outside the box goes beyond being just a cliché—it reflects the importance of encouraging learners to explore new ideas, take risks, and approach tasks from different perspectives. When teachers create learning experiences that invite curiosity and innovation, students become more engaged, more confident, and more capable of applying creative thinking to real classroom challenges.

On the other hand, thinking creatively involves accepting the current status quo. "Everything that can be invented has been invented," according to US Patent Office Director Charles H. Duell. More significantly, creative minds are excellent at destroying ideas. The best in-the-box thinkers are masters of the mindset that kills creativity, such as "that'll never work" or "it's too risky." They are blind to the fact that they kill their innovative ideas while draining the enthusiasm and drive of innovative thinker.

To think creatively, one must be willing to look deeper and open to new ideas. Conventional thinkers are aware that fresh concepts require encouragement and support. They also understand that while having an idea is beneficial, putting it into practice is more crucial. What matters are the outcomes.

Teachers can assist students in developing the creative thinking abilities necessary for success in the twenty-first century by emphasising problem framing, idea discovery, response implementation, and evaluation of solutions. We can assist our learners in developing into creative thinkers and problem solvers who are prepared for the challenges of the future by embracing creativity in the classroom.

References:

<https://ed-bernacki.medium.com/exactly-what-is-thinking-outside-the-box-this-is-a-serious-question-27f9f2cfde40>

Darn S., 2006 Thinking Outside The Teacher's Box, files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED493025

.