

Modern Teaching Methods and its Effects

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Abstract

New teaching methodologies are changing the educational environments around the world and driving better academic performance among students. This article will examine over some of the main innovative approaches that educators have forged over the last few years and that every 21st century teacher should be acquainted with.

Keywords: Flipped Classroom, Project-Based Learning, Cooperative Learning, Design Thinking, Competency-Based Learning.

One of the modern methodologies that has gained more popularity in recent years, Flipped Classroom is a pedagogical approach in which the traditional elements of the lesson taught by the teacher are reversed – the primary educational materials are studied by the students at home and, then, worked on in the classroom.

The main objective of this methodology is to optimize time in class by dedicating it, for example, to meet the special needs of each individual student, develop cooperative projects or work on specific tasks. With the arrival of new information and communication technologies to schools, both new teaching methodologies as well as new versions of existing methodologies, now revised and updated for the digital generation, have emerged. One of the most used in class at present is Project-Based Learning (PBL). In its essence, PBL allows students to acquire key knowledge and skills through the development of projects that respond to real-life problems. Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is a cyclic learning process composed of many different stages, starting with asking questions and acquiring knowledge that, in turn, leads to more questions in a growing complexity cycle.

Putting this methodology into practice does not only mean the exercise of inquiry by students, but convert it into useful data and information. According to several educators, the four great advantages observed with the use of this methodology are:

The development of critical thinking and creative skills

The improvement of problem solving abilities

Increased student motivation

Better knowledge sharing in challenging situations

Starting from a concrete problem, instead of the traditional theoretical and abstract model, sees notable improvements in students' ability to retain knowledge as well as the opportunity to develop complex competencies such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration or the problem solving.

Cooperative Learning. —Stronger together. This concept in a simple way cooperative learning, a methodology that teachers use to group students together and, thus, impact on learning in a

positive way. The proponents of this model theorize that working in a group improves the attention, involvement and acquisition of knowledge by students. The main characteristic is that it is structured based on the formation of groups of 3-6 people, where each member has a specific role and to reach the objectives it is necessary to interact and work in a coordinated manner. In a cooperative learning context, the final goal is always common and will be achieved if each of the members successfully performs their tasks. On the other hand, individual learning has students focusing on achieving their objectives without having to depend on the rest of their classmates. Education has always been a prolific space for innovation. Teachers all over the world are constantly coming up with new ideas and methodologies to introduce in the classroom making the best of the tools at their disposal.

Flipped Classroom. Let's start with the most popular modern teaching technique. Traditional teaching methods instruct that learners are introduced to the subject in the classroom first, then study independently at home. In a flipped classroom, students first learn about the subject on their own, then come to the classroom to resolve questions and practice with a collaborative project or another activity that fits the scope of the subject. This method helps students have an active role and develop more autonomy in their learning. Instead of relying on the teacher to introduce them to the subject and do all the heavy lifting for them, students become their own teachers!

Tactile Learning. Also known as kinesthetic learning, tactile learning takes place through demonstrations and hands-on activities. This teaching method also applies to online classrooms, with the teacher demonstrating an activity and learners practicing simultaneously from their homes. It's best suited for practical subjects and skills where learners need to develop dexterity or construct things. The term tactile learning refers to active and collaborative learning. By working at the same pace as the teacher, mistakes can be spotted and corrected immediately, preventing the learner from developing a wrong technique.

VAK learning is broader than the above-mentioned tactile method, as it involves all three different types of learners: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Visual learners absorb information better when they view the material (textbooks, presentations, info graphics, diagrams, charts), Auditory learners when they hear it (podcasts, videos, discussions), and Kinesthetic learners as they act out the content. VAK learning has something for everyone – by using different types of learning material, you can be sure your students will always anticipate what's coming next!

Project-Based Learning. In project-based learning, the teacher assigns a practical or theoretical project, and students must work to materialize the project. Projects aim to solve real-life problems and not abstract ones.

You can assign projects individually or in small teams. Whatever the case, working on a project is the best example of active learning. It enhances creativity and problem-solving and invites students to think practically.

Problem-Based Learning. While problem-based learning is similar to project-based learning, it differs in that the problem is presented before anything else is taught.

Learners work together or separately to decide on the best course of action to complete the project. In problem-based learning, the difficulty level gradually increases as we move from basic knowledge and initial discovery to more advanced projects.

Collaborative Learning. Collaborative learning is an umbrella term that includes any project or activity that learners work together on. A lesson plan based on collaborative learning helps build valuable soft skills like teamwork, delegation, time management, collaboration, decision-making, and social skills. Through collaborative activities, learners also start to work on their self-awareness, as they need to evaluate their strengths and choose their part in the project depending on their skills. The fact that all group members are accountable for the outcome teaches them how their actions can affect the whole group as well.

Design Thinking (DT) applied stems from industrial designers and their unique method to solve problems and satisfy the needs of their clients. Applied to education, this model makes possible to identify with greater accuracy the individual problems of each student and generate in their educational experience the creation and innovation towards the satisfaction of others, which then becomes symbiotic.

By definition, all learning methodologies have the acquisition of knowledge, the development of skills and the establishment of work habits as their main goals. Competency-Based Learning (CBL) represents a set of strategies to achieve this. Through assessment tools such as rubrics, teachers can go through the academic curriculum without significant deviations but focusing it in a different way, putting into practice real examples and, thus, transmitting to their students a more tangible dimension of the lessons.

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