

Questions to Encourage Creativity

Some have questioned whether creativity is inherent in one's abilities OR can it be learned/taught? Recent studies in cognitive neuroscience seem to point towards creativity as a result of a series of cognitive processes that can be developed in most individuals. This is great news to teachers!

Four behaviors often associated with creativity are fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration. To incorporate this into your teaching, think about using something like this:

| Behavior | Definition | Question/s | Students who respond to OR ask these types of questions |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Fluency | Describes the ability to generate new ideas. In what ways can we do this? | What ways can we do this? | |
| Flexibility | Requires generating a broad range of ideas. | How many different ways can we do this? | |
| Originality | Refers to unusual or unique responses to a situation. | What is the most unusual way to accomplish that? | |
| Elaboration | Other ideas and details are added to the reasoning. | What else can we do here? Can you tell me more? | |

Such questions as these will open up the creativity in you and your students. Give them a try!