University of Huddersfield Repository

Harvey, Josie and Eastwood, Linda

Changing Ways Teachers Teach in an Unpredictable Climate: Engaging and Motivating Students in a Creative and Innovative Way

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/10000/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Changing ways Teachers Teach in an Unpredictable Climate

Josie Harvey and Linda Eastwood
University of Huddersfield
j.v.harvey@hud.ac.uk
Introduction

• Background to the TQEF Project in ‘Creativity and Innovation in Teaching in Higher Education’
• The Creativity Cafes and their benefits
• Developments out of the Creativity Cafes
• Are the risks too high for teachers?
Background to the Creativity in Teaching project

- Interviewed over 40 academic staff
- Enquiry into creative and innovative methods used in teaching
- Unaware of other creative teaching practice
- Welcomed the opportunity to network with others
- 4 Broad Categories of Creativity identified
4 Broad Categories of Creativity in Teaching

1. The Process of Creative Thinking
2. Creative Teaching Techniques
3. Creativity in Community and Employer Engagement
4. Creativity and the use of Information Technology
The Creativity Cafe

• An informal, but structured event where staff could network and share good practice
• A themed session was set out in a ‘bistro’ style with menus, tablecloths, candles and waiters
• ‘Diners’ sat with unfamiliar staff
• Followed up at least one contact
Simmering on the back burner...
Impact of the Creativity Cafes on staff and their teaching

- All relished the time to share, network and discuss new ideas at the Cafés. Wanted these to be a regular event.
- Contagious – ‘you picked up ideas whether you wanted to or not’
- More flexible in their teaching. Confidence to experiment with new ideas and different ways of working.
- Less teacher-talk. More engaging activities.
- More interesting to teach this way.
- Mood of the sessions was lighter.
Perceived benefits in students’ learning

- Lessons more enjoyable. More motivated and engaged
- Less able students flourished
- Preferred more practical activities and less teacher-talk
- Less resistant to change, and open to new ideas
- More self-sufficient and able to work independently. Developed problem-solving skills
- Quality of work was higher
Developments out of the Creativity Cafés

- Production of a Creative Teaching DVD to capture ‘cameos’ of staff teaching and student interviews
- OU Publication of a book ‘A Toolkit for Creative Teaching in Post-Compulsory Education’ containing 50 practical teaching activities
Should Creativity in Teaching be encouraged?

In a target-driven educational world there is a need for:

- Conformity
- Teaching to assessment criteria
- Accountability
- Certification
- Goals and Targets/League Tables

Are teachers willing to take risks or the stakes too high for failure? Do students really learn better this way?