Creativity In Education: A Format for Dialogue

OVERVIEW

Purpose: This discussion group model will help participants make connections with creativity research, while promoting inquiry and dialogue about the nature of creativity, as well as the role of creativity in K-12 teaching, learning and assessment.

Time Commitment: 30-45 minutes of reading and reflection for each individual before meeting as a group, and 60-90 minutes recommended meeting time.

Group Size: Recommended size is 6-8 members, but this format can accommodate anywhere from 2-20 people.

Participants: Groups can range from teams of school colleagues who work together, including teachers, administrators and teaching artists, to more diverse groups composed of teachers, community members, parents and students.

Group Roles: For groups of three or more, it is suggested that a facilitator, timekeeper and note-taker be assigned in advance.

Discussion Group Flow:
1. Group members are identified, and a meeting date and time are set.
2. Each individual group member reads the stimulus document on creativity research provided as part of this resource.
3. The meeting is held using the meeting format provided below as a model.
4. All post-meeting documentation, actions and next steps are carried through in a timely manner.

INSTRUCTIONS

Prep Work: Each group participant should read the PDF "Creativity Overview for Discussion," provided in this resource. Before reading, ask yourself: What are my <u>current</u> beliefs about creativity? As you read, note your key takeaways and questions to bring to the group discussion. **Please make sure to reflect on the guiding questions near the end of the document.**

Suggested Discussion topics:
- For a first meeting, creating a draft group definition of creativity is a powerful starting point. This is not a time for wordsmithing, but a time to explore a working definition that may well change over time. Even a bulleted list of necessary components for creativity is acceptable.
- What are best teaching practices that will most effectively support development of student creativity in the classroom?
- What are best practices for other stakeholders (administrators, parents, students) that will most effectively support development of both teacher and student creativity?
- One key issue is the role of motivation in creativity. How can educators find the right balance of affective, emotional, experiential components of creativity with more cognitive, intellectual, skill building components of creativity?
- What is the ideal role of assessment in developing creativity in K-12 education?

Discussion Group Format (based on a 90 minute meeting):

Introductions (if needed)	10 minutes
Clarification of roles	
Introduction of main topic	
Individual reflection on the topic	5 minutes
Discuss in pairs	5 minutes
Whole group dialogue on topic	20 minutes
Generate follow-up questions	10 minutes
Address one or more follow-up questions	15 minutes
Next Steps for individuals/group	
Individual reflection	5 minutes
Full group share	5 minutes
Choose specific post-meeting actions	5 minutes
Will we meet again?	5 minutes
If yes, select date and time	
Who else could we refer to this process	
Closing	5 minutes
Total Time:	90 minutes

Post meeting:
- Report on findings agreed upon in meeting
- Communicate as necessary about actions and next steps to be taken
- Spread the word! We want as many groups as possible to go through this process.

Important Tips and Suggestions:
- Meet in person. This format can certainly be used for an online meeting, but especially for a **first** meeting the commitment and engagement of face-to-face dialogue is highly recommended. Follow-up meetings may be more conducive to an online format.
- Follow-up meetings are encouraged. This process of inquiry into the nature of creativity is meant to be a seed that can grow and deepen over time, both through follow-up meetings of the same groups, as well as the formation of new groups.
- Any topic or question related to creativity is fair game for the discussion group format. One suggested format for a typical first meeting would be to start with the question "How do you define creativity?" followed by "What are the implications for good teaching and learning?" and concluding with "What concrete actions can we take based on our findings?"

If You Have Questions: Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or insights, either before or after your meeting. You can reach me directly by email at johnmorris08@gmail.com, or contact me through the Maine Arts Commission.