Lesson Planning That Teaches Thinking and Fosters Innovation

In today's rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever for students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These skills are essential for success in school, work, and life. Lesson planning that teaches thinking and fosters innovation can help students develop these skills and prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century.

Lesson planning that teaches thinking is a process of designing and delivering instruction that helps students develop their thinking skills. This type of lesson planning focuses on teaching students how to think critically, solve problems, and create innovative solutions.

There are many different strategies that teachers can use to teach thinking. Some of the most common strategies include:



The i5 Approach: Lesson Planning That Teaches Thinking and Fosters Innovation by Jane E. Pollock

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- Inquiry-based learning: This approach to learning encourages students to ask questions, investigate problems, and develop their own solutions.
- Problem-based learning: This approach to learning presents students with real-world problems and challenges them to find solutions.
- Project-based learning: This approach to learning allows students to work on projects that are meaningful to them and that allow them to apply their thinking skills.
- Design thinking: This approach to learning encourages students to think creatively and develop innovative solutions to problems.

When planning a lesson that teaches thinking, teachers should keep the following in mind:

- Start with the end in mind. What do you want your students to learn and be able to do by the end of the lesson?
- Choose a topic that is engaging and relevant to your students.
 This will help to motivate them and make the learning experience more meaningful.
- Use a variety of teaching strategies. This will help to keep your students engaged and learning in different ways.
- Provide opportunities for students to practice their thinking skills. This can be done through activities such as discussions, problem-solving exercises, and projects.

Assess student learning regularly. This will help you to determine whether your students are meeting your learning objectives and to make necessary adjustments to your instruction.

Here are a few examples of lesson plans that teach thinking:

- Inquiry-based lesson plan: This lesson plan teaches students how to investigate a problem and develop their own solutions. Students will work in groups to research a problem, develop a hypothesis, and design an experiment to test their hypothesis.
- Problem-based lesson plan: This lesson plan presents students with a real-world problem and challenges them to find a solution. Students will work in teams to brainstorm solutions, develop a plan, and implement their plan.
- Project-based lesson plan: This lesson plan allows students to work on a project that is meaningful to them and that allows them to apply their thinking skills. Students will work on projects that are related to their interests, such as designing a new product, creating a website, or writing a play.
- Design thinking lesson plan: This lesson plan encourages students
 to think creatively and develop innovative solutions to problems.
 Students will work in teams to identify a problem, brainstorm solutions,
 and design a prototype of their solution.

There are a number of resources available to help teachers plan lessons that teach thinking. Some of the most helpful resources include:

- The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) has developed a number of resources on teaching thinking in mathematics.
 These resources include lesson plans, activities, and professional development materials.
- The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) has developed a number of resources on teaching thinking in science. These resources include lesson plans, activities, and professional development materials.
- The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has developed a number of resources on teaching thinking with technology. These resources include lesson plans, activities, and professional development materials.

Lesson planning that teaches thinking and fosters innovation is an essential component of 21st century education. By using the strategies and resources outlined in this article, teachers can create engaging and effective lessons that help students develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills they need to succeed in school, work, and life.



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