

Creativity in the Classroom

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Abstract:

Creativity, critical thinking, entrepreneurial ability, twenty first century skills – these are all things that are now needed in the classroom of today and the future.

When people are asked to define creativity, the overwhelming response is that it has to do with something new, and with the imagination, and with thinking. Many people also feel that it is something that can be taught, and that schools manage to kill it.

There is also the feeling that creativity rests on the shoulders of a chosen few, and those mainly in the arts. Or that it is something you are ‘born with’. Yet, the ability to create is innate in every human being, and the drive to create something underlies all activities.

Creativity is, in my opinion, nothing more nor less than the ability to manipulate your environment in some manner. And that is what being human is all about – we manipulate things around us all the time. Solving problems, cooking a meal, rearranging a room or writing a new app – these are all examples of creativity at work.

Participants will have a chance to test their own creativity, since it is crucial that a teacher understands whatever he or she wants to share with students. Workshop participants will then have a chance to discuss various definitions of creativity and the implications of each, and examine some suggestions about how creativity can be implemented in the EFL classroom.

Bio:

Leonie Overbeek holds qualifications in Analytical Chemistry and Chemical Engineering from the University of Johannesburg, an M.Phil in Value and Policy Studies (organizational communication) from Stellenbosch University and a TESOL certificate from Boston Language College.

She taught at middle school level in South Korea for seven years. She now teaches elementary school children, and loves every minute. She likes to write, paint and cook in such spare time as she has, and recently had a successful exhibition of her watercolor paintings.

She has been the secretary of the National Council of KOTESOL for three years, and constantly attends and presents at meetings and conferences, as she is an avid supporter of KOTESOL and its activities.