

INQUIRY PROPOSAL

Productivity in our classrooms

INTRODUCTION

The classroom as we know it has been the space for lecture method teaching for many years. It has been a space where the students' attention is to the front of the class to hear words of knowledge or bare witness to important concepts being written on a white board or shown on a screen. However with a design process method of teaching being explored in the applied design skills and technology classes, are our students hindered by the space in which they learn?

QUESTIONS

Does classroom environment impact the productivity of our students? In other words does the layout and structure of the rooms we teach in effect how students learn, explore and refine their skills? How can we design a space that is conducive to making, ideating, and collaborating?

KEY CONCEPTS

In what environments are students the most productive?

- Quiet spaces vs interactive spaces
- Mobile furniture spaces vs stationary furniture spaces
- How to make students feel comfortable in the classroom?

Creating an inclusive classroom that allows students to explore and share?

- Displaying of ideas and concepts on bulletin boards
- Is it the students classroom or the teachers?

REASONING

Too often classrooms are configured in a way that supports lecture method teaching. Students' desks/workspaces are arranged in a way that their main focus is to the front of the class rather than in a way that allows for sharing and conversation. Whiteboards are often seen as a sacred object for teachers only, when they could be used as an open communication system between students about ideas or questions. Too often classrooms are set up for the needs of the teacher, yet it neglects the space of the student learner. If we want students to explore and expand their way of thinking we need to give them a space in which they can feel comfortable in doing so.

I feel it is important to share my findings with teachers and administration, so they can reflect upon the spaces that they have created for their students learning. And perhaps make appropriate changes to benefit the productivity of the learners.

ETHICAL CONCERN

Due to our code of ethics I will be unable to personally ask students and teachers how they feel about learning spaces. However I can explore any research that has been shared online. I can also use research generated through productivity in the work place.

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