Active learning: Lessons from the Arts

Diagenesis: Pedagogy for Meaningful Development

Dr Phil Kirkman
Subject Lecturer (Music ITE)
Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge
Active learning: Lessons from the Arts

Diagenesis: Pedagogy for Meaningful Development

- An Arts Perspective on Education
- An Arts Perspective on Action
- Inspiring Students: Sam
- Inspiring Students: Emily
- Active Learning and Development
- Conclusion: Inspiring lessons from the arts
...education should be primarily concerned with critical reflection, with personal development and with sustained enquiry into the various forms of meaning...as a life-long process which has, at once, an ethical bearing and a transcendent function...feeding the primary symbol-making proclivities of the mind...slowly to enlarge the range of consciousness and, as a consequence, develop individual life.

(Abbs, 1994)

How might we celebrate and build on these differences?
…becoming an ‘expert’ in socially defined ways is learning to relate intrinsic expertise to the social and cultural context in which the activity takes place.

(Hargreaves, 2008)
An Arts Perspective on Action
Kirkman, 2008
Inspiring Students: Sam
“And then I did, I think on that one, a little bit of just improvising; what I do at home with my dad”

“it just kinda flowed out”

Inspiring Students: Sam
Emily

- Triton
- Electric piano
- Sustain pedal
- Mac computer running Logic software

Inspiring Students: Emily
Diagenesis

Institutional/Formal Space

Dialogic

Active Learning and Development
Provoke
Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

Victor Hugo

Music can change the world because it can change people.

Bono

Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart.

Pablo Casals

Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.

Ludwig van Beethoven

Without music, life would be a mistake.

Friedrich Nietzsche

For me, singing sad songs often has a way of healing a situation. It gets the hurt out in the open into the light, out of the darkness.

Reba McEntire

Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness.

Maya Angelou

▶ Active Learning and Development
Problematise
Active Learning and Development
Workshop
Active Learning and Development
Create
Support
Active Learning and Development
Listen
Basically, well, … it's just it didn't sound very nice. It just didn't, you know, it didn't sound like a piano even if it was on piano. The keyboard wasn't big enough; it didn't have any pedals. It just didn't work and it didn't suit my piece either cause even if it was on like touch, you know, like whatever it's called, it didn't really have the dynamics and stuff. It just didn't work.
Learn
I had a friend over doing that cause he does music as well…I was just on the bass and guitar yesterday twiddling around figuring out…
Consolidate
Active Learning and Development
Care
Active Learning and Development

- Physiological: breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion
- Safety: security of body, of employment, of resources, of morality, of the family, of health, of property
- Love/Belonging: friendship, family, sexual intimacy
- Esteem: self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others
- Self-actualization: morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts
Provoke - apply to provoke, question, discuss

Inspire - find something to emulate and to support

Problematise – find something in the task that is a problem to be solved

Workshop – ‘be’ a real person… artist, musician, poet, playwright, scientist…

Create – to play with and shape an idea…give a selection of ideas, go outside!

Support – them in ways that meet their needs not the needs of an exam or curriculum

Listen – to what they can bring to the discussion

Learn – who they are and what makes them tick, about things

Consolidate – to bring together and make meaning

Care - love learning, care for your students, care for yourself