

Integrating Art, Life, and Education: A Personal Journey Towards Creative Teaching

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A Personal Journey Towards Creative Teaching

This presentation explores the integration of personal experiences into teaching practices in art education using autoethnography. My experience as a middle school art teacher from 2012 to 2024 forms the foundation of this study, where I examined how personal experiences can enrich educational practices and enhance student engagement.

Two personal experiences inspired this research. The first was catching rhinoceros beetles with my son, which led to exploring different methods of catching them. This hands-on experience provided new knowledge and emphasized the value of experiential learning. The second experience was with my daughter's interest in tin casting using seashell molds, which encouraged creative exploration. These experiences highlighted the impact of personal experiences on teaching and prompted me to rethink my approach to education.

Initially, my teaching focused on traditional methods that emphasized technical skills through structured art projects, like color wheels and poster designs. However, I found these projects often failed to fully engage students or connect with their interests. For instance, a "school trip" poster project revealed that some students could not relate to the theme due to personal circumstances, prompting a shift towards more relevant content.

By incorporating real-world issues, such as environmental topics, into my lessons, I created projects that were more engaging and meaningful for students. This approach encouraged critical thinking and allowed students to apply their learning to real-life scenarios, enriching their educational experience.

Using autoethnography, I documented and analyzed my teaching practices through self-reflection and personal experience. This method revealed how integrating personal experiences into teaching can lead to more meaningful and engaging projects, such as "Urban Planning" and "Kitchen Car Design."

This study emphasizes the importance of reflective practice in education, suggesting that teachers should continuously evaluate and adapt their methods based on their experiences and observations. By doing so, educators can create a more inclusive and supportive learning environment, drawing on their own experiences to enhance teaching practices.

References

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Bio

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