

Creative Student Thinking: Can Faculty Design for It?

Original, creative, higher-level thinking is seen in many forms of personal expression in all disciplines, from writing, music, and art to a unique design in the social sciences or an original experiment in the natural sciences. However, this synthesis typically comes only after students have mastered the declarative and procedural knowledge in a particular discipline, and even then, only under conditions that encourage the freedom necessary to think creatively.

Creative thinking involves an integration of past learning to produce and organize new ideas. If students are to show original or creative thinking in our courses, their projects, tests, and assignments must be designed to encourage this.

Some conditions for stimulating creativity include:

- 1) a solid foundation in the discipline
- 2) open-ended and flexible projects, tests, and assignments
- 3) time to create

For the complete 2-page essay on this topic, as well as linked references for improving multiple choice and essay tests and improving college grading, please click on #19 at <http://www.idea.ksu.edu/podidea/index.html>

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