Resource Center
Professional Development
Workshop Series

Inquiry and Design: Essentials for Teaching and Learning

Student learning depends on the quality and quantity of student involvement, yet teachers dominate 70% of the conversations that happen in the classroom. Inquiry and Design places teachers in the position of coach, or guide on the side, while inviting students to take the lead in their learning process. Inquiry and Design promotes active learning, and requires students to read and evaluate a variety of texts around an essential question. Inquiry and design challenges students to ask questions and take ownership of what they are learning. It promotes intellectual curiosity and offers a structure for kids to practice and hone necessary research skills. Join us for this workshop series in which we explore the Inquiry and Design process, and consider the many ways of “doing” inquiry. This workshop series is designed for you to enter in at any workshop you choose, and hopes to support the use of Inquiry and Design with your students. 2 CPDUs per session. Minimum 6 participants.

Session ID1 - Doing Inquiry: Experience the Cycle
Tuesday, September 23, 4:30-6:30pm  Presenters Jennifer Crall and Susan A. Garr

Session ID2 - Doing Inquiry: Experience the Cycle
Saturday, September 27, 10:00am-1:00pm  Presenter Lynette Emmons (3 CPDUs for this session)

Session ID3 - Inquiry Essentials: The All Important Inquiry Notebook
Tuesday, September 30, 4:30-6:30pm  Presenter Germania Solórzano

Session ID4 - Inquiry and Design Nuts and Bolts
Monday, October 6, 4:30-6:30pm  Presenter Susan A. Garr

Session ID5 - Doing Inquiry: Experience the Cycle
Tuesday, October 14, 4:30-6:30pm  Presenter Germania Solórzano

Session ID6 - Doing Inquiry: Using Stations to Promote Practice, Collaboration & Curiosity
Tuesday, October 28, 4:30-6:30pm  Presenters Susan A. Garr and Christine Johnson

Session ID7 - Managing Inquiry: Building and Maintaining Inquiry Theme Teams
Tuesday, November 18, 4:30-6:00pm  Presenter Jeremy Babcock and Susan A. Garr

Creating Classroom Community with Improv
Presenter: Jeremy Babcock

Improvisational theater exercises can be integrated into any lesson plan to create community and build shared learning experiences that awaken our creative energy. The goal of the series is to provide hands-on experience in order to empower participants to lead others in cooperative learning initiatives and alleviate some of the fear associated with improv. Activities will focus on elements of improvisation such as: agreement, heightening, imagination and group mind, in a safe environment that emphasizes the importance of play. Every exercise is always challenge by choice and mindful to include a variety of different learning styles. We will experience and then process ways to bring the lessons into the classroom and our everyday lives. 1 CPDU per session. Minimum 10 participants.

Session PR1 - Basics of Creating Community with Improv
Tuesday, October 7, 4:30-6:00pm

Session PR2 - Digging Deeper into Theory and Specifics
Tuesday, November 4, 4:30-6:00pm

Session PR3 - Theory into Practice
Tuesday, December 2, 4:30-6:00pm
Teachers as Writers: The Story Workshop Approach to the Teaching of Writing
Presenter: Polly Mills

In Teachers as Writers sessions, teachers write. This is not to say you must be an accomplished writer, long to publish, or even identify as a writer in any way, although if you have written the great American novel, you are most welcome. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather in community, explore story, scene, and character, and find approaches and principles to bring a rigorous, engaging, and fun writing experience to your students. We will dig deeply to create an authentic and satisfying experience of community and story and to create a model for your classroom; toward that end, you are urged to commit to attending the full series of five workshops. 2 CPDUs per session. Minimum 7 participants.

Session TW1 - Reality vs. Dream Wednesday, September 24, 4:30-7:00pm
Session TW2 - The Writer’s Journal Wednesday, October 1, 4:30-7:00pm
Session TW3 - Letter Stories Wednesday, October 8, 4:30-7:00pm
Session TW4 - Journal Rewrite Wednesday, October 15, 4:30-7:00pm
Session TW5 - Story or Scene Rewrite Session Wednesday, October 22, 4:30-7:00pm

Thinking In Frames: Better Comprehension through Visual Inquiry
Presenter: Andy David

This series focuses on two important aspects affecting 21st Century learners: the use of visual thinking to navigate the increasingly image-oriented world of information and, the capacity to assess the legitimacy and value of web-based content. The results of a standard Google search can be overwhelming; it can be difficult to scan the text for relevant sites, particularly for students. But an image search yields a screenful of images with which we can quickly pinpoint items of interest, drawing upon visual instincts as well as logical decision-making. Learning to understand and express ourselves through the language of images enriches our growth as learners. Nevertheless, we should remain aware that the internet—today’s primary source of information that dominates the inquiry process—offers virtually unlimited information but is littered by almost as much content of questionable value, and that a critical 21st century skill is the capacity to navigate the web wisely. 1 CPDU per session. Minimum 6 participants.

Session TF1 - Visual Inquiry: An Overview Wednesday, October 29, 4:30-6:00pm
Session TF2 - Advanced Image Searches: An Alternate Pathway to Web-Based Content Wednesday, November 5, 4:30-6:00pm
Session TF3 - The Language of Film: Analyzing Visual Content Wednesday, November 12, 4:30-6:00pm
Session TF4 - The Graphic Novel: A Creative Medium for Organizing Content Wednesday, November 19, 4:30-6:00pm

All workshops are held at the Center for College Access and Success. Fees for each session is $25.00 but will be reduced to $10.00 for this initial series. CPDUs and related materials are included. To see other workshops or to register for these sessions, go to http://pd.centerforcollegeaccessandsuccess.org

For more information, contact
Christine Johnson
c-johnson15@neiu.edu