

ASSIGNMENT

A. evaluate how Skills Builder website can be useful for teachers concerning encouraging and innovative thinking in schools

When I was exploring the Skills Builder website, I got the feeling that it is a very useful and well organised tool for teachers and schools. I really like that everything is explained in a simple and clear way. For every step there is an explanation what the skill means, why it is important, when students can use it and how teachers can help them develop it. I really liked that the whole process is divided into many small steps, from imagining to championing creativity. This shows that creativity is not only one moment when a student suddenly has a good idea, but a longer process.

First, students learn how to imagine things that do not exist yet. Then they learn how to share and express their imagination, which is important because ideas are only useful if we can explain them to other people. Steps like generating ideas, combining concepts and flexible thinking show students that it is normal to have many ideas and that not all of them will be perfect at the beginning. They learn that they can connect different subjects and experiences, and that they can change their thinking if something doesn't work. This can help students who are afraid of making mistakes, because they see that mistakes are part of the creative process. Later steps, such as reflecting critically, seeking other perspectives and incubating ideas, teach students that good ideas need time. They learn that feedback from classmates and teachers is important and that ideas can always be improved. This is very important for innovative thinking, because in real life solutions are not ready immediately, but they develop slowly.

Personally, I find this website very meaningful, because in my school most of the time, we were focused on correct answers and tests. Because of that, I sometimes feel that I am not creative enough and I am afraid of being wrong. As a future teacher, I really want to change this for my students. I want them to feel that their ideas are valuable and that creativity is something they can learn. I think, that with the help of websites such as Skills Builder, I could slowly guide my students from imagination and curiosity to cooperation, improving their ideas and finally having confidence in their own creative thinking.

B. describe where you are as a creative person now and where you would like to be.

When I think about myself as a creative person, I don't really see myself as a creative person, because I have always struggled with creativity. I realized that creativity was never really developed in my education from the beginning. In primary school and high school, creativity was almost never presented as something important or something we should practice. The main concept was always to listen, remember, and repeat. Sometimes it was not even necessary to truly understand, it was enough to show that we "knew" and that we could tell what the teacher said or what was written in the book. I was not used to asking questions, especially not "what if" questions, and I did not feel comfortable sharing my own ideas. I often felt that I was not creative enough and that creativity was something only "talented" people had.

During this course, I slowly started to see that creativity is a skill that can be learned and practiced. I improved especially in generating ideas, seeking perspectives, and reflecting critically. Group work and discussions helped me understand that different answers can exist and that an idea does not have to be perfect.

This is very important for my future profession, because I will be a mathematics teacher. Mathematics is already known as a "hard" and "boring" subject, full of rules and fixed procedures. That is why I really want to develop my creative thinking, so that I can show students that mathematics can also be about thinking, exploring, visualising, and trying different strategies, not only about learning formulas by heart.

In the 21st century, creativity is essential because we need people who can solve new problems and think in original ways. In my life and career, it will help me to become more confident, open, and innovative. I will try to develop these skills by practicing, by using creative tasks, by reflecting on my teaching, and by not being afraid of mistakes. These are all the reasons why I really liked this course and also the website Skills Builder. It showed me that creativity is not a gift you either have or do not have, but a competence that can be built step by step, with patience, practice, support from others, and a positive learning environment in the classroom.

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