

M.A.S.T.E.R. Approach to Creative Teaching

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Introduction

Different strategies are observed in writing poetry, and it focuses on one goal. That is to express emotions and gain the readers' interest in the writer's convention of emotions, thoughts, and expressions. To enhance students' skills in poetry writing different techniques should be presented. These techniques can allow students to express themselves and make their work even more creative. As an instructor of literature and creative writing, I always aim to teach my students in a manner of making them enjoy and at the same time learn. I always want to teach my students how to hone their skills and make their way of teaching in the future more creative and participative. These are creative strategies, creative strategies provide benefits for both teachers and students, it enhances their skills in innovation, strategies in problem-solving, outlining, and giving proper feedback.

My Experiential Journey

As I journey to becoming an effective teacher, I always find ways to teach my students with creativity. Creativity in teaching is a way for a teacher to be unique, it shows also how knowledgeable the teacher is and how he knows his students' strengths and weaknesses. Creativity is defined as imagination or original ideas in producing an artistic work. Strategies are examples of creativity and strategies in teaching are great examples of creativity. As an Instructor of Literature and Creative Writing, I must integrate creativity into teaching and learning, this way my students can have the opportunity to enjoy while learning. Strategies like group presentations in literature and impromptu poetry writing in Creative writing class enhance my students' confidence and creativity in writing poems. Another strategy is my Follow the Last Word in Line, this type of activity can boost students' communication and critical thinking skills, where they will think of a line that rhymes with the first one. This can also increase the collaboration of students where they can strategically create a poem on the spot.

Games are also creative strategies for teaching students, as an instructor that teaches in the 21st century, I observed a lot when it comes to my students' interest, especially in learning literature. Literature is a challenging course to teach, some students find it a little dull the reason why strategic activities are needed. Commonly, roleplay, choric speech, dialogue, and monologue are activities found in teaching literature, but if we choose to strategize and be more

creative, we can achieve more. Strategies like gamification, and creative works where students can create their creative activities. As I observed in teaching, students now are creative, and integrating students' creativity into learning can even boost their actions and interest in our subject. This way, it is easy for us to assess our students, it is easy for us teachers to execute the class without worrying about their interest in the topic and the class will be satisfying for both the teacher and students.

What are the benefits of Creativity in teaching and learning?

In my everyday life as an instructor at PSU-Lingayen Campus, I have met varieties of students, students that listen to teachers, some students who manage to lead, some are static, but most are dynamic. To make them fall to my class and be attentive, I choose to be creative, I choose to look for strategies and approaches to give my students satisfaction in my class. As I observed my students in my class creativity played a big role in them that made them a beneficiary of creativity. The following are the benefits I saw in integrating creativity in teaching and learning:

Help Students Solve Problems

The way I saw it, giving students a problem to solve is a creative way to make students strategize individually and as a group. Like in literature writing, students can also find ways to solve problems and think critically by observing, brainstorming, and producing. Creativity in teaching is a way for students to grow academically and personally, adversities in fiction writing are an example for students to relate to, students can write stories where they can use these conflicts as a way for them to solve problems strategically.

Experience both Taking and Giving Criticism

For students to learn more about themselves, I always give feedback on their work, such as poems, short stories, speed sessions, and other activities, this kind of approach is a way for students to learn to be open to criticism. I always say to them "If you criticize make sure that you are open to criticism, that way your criticisms are valid." Let students take criticism and help them see the way how to properly criticize without offending someone. Creativity can also provide students the opportunity to criticize, giving each other feedback, insights, and suggestions are good ways to criticize each other's work, it will boost their confidence and will crave more works of their classmates to criticize.

Helps To Improve Outlining Skills

Presentations made without an outline in place can meander and get lost in themselves, making them difficult to understand or follow. For this reason, outlining is a good skill to pursue, and can be learned or improved upon using creative strategies. I always group my students and let them plan how they are going to discuss an idea given to them, as their instructor I guide them with instructions, and these instructions are outlines of their ideas. This kind of approach to teaching is strategically creative for me, making my students outline ideas for smooth presentation and it helps them collaborate and agree to conclusions. These are some of my observations in teaching and integrating creativity as part of my way of teaching my class creatively. There are more benefits to teaching our students creatively, they can learn to improve themselves in terms of expressing themselves orally, and their writing skills are also developed during these activities, such as essay writing, script writing, fiction, and plot-planning.

As time goes by and with students I encounter, I haven't removed the idea of teaching creatively, because as a teacher I always aim high for my students, and for me as a teacher creative strategy in teaching helped me create an outline of how to plan my lesson and deliver it creatively.

Creative Strategy

To properly have this kind of approach, we must learn to master our subject matter for us to properly execute ideas or creativity in our class, in this manner, we can easily monitor our students and find suited activities for the subject. To have a smooth flow of creative strategy I have come up with the idea of Mastery, Awareness, Sense of creativity, Timeliness, Evaluation, and Response (**M.A.S.T.E.R. APPROACH**). This approach targets both students' and teachers' creative strategies.

Mastery

It is a must for teachers to master the subject matter for us to identify suited activities for our students, mastery of the subject is an approach needed to conduct the smooth flow of discussion and create activities students need to understand the subject. For students, mastery is important for them to easily follow instructions given by their teacher, where they can easily overcome the challenges in their activity and can help construct reflections and conclusions.

Awareness

Consciousness is what we need to have in planning our strategies creatively, we must look for possibilities of success and adversities in our class. I always remind myself that not all students are the same, as teachers, we must consider dynamism in our class, students are in different ways of adapting and considering situations in our class. We must be aware of the activities we conduct, let us target not only one student, not those who are promising but all heads in our classroom, this way, we are aware that all can act but in different ways. For students, creative activities can target their consciousness in terms of knowing their situation as a member of a group, it can also bring out the leader in them or a good member that follows instructions. Awareness is important in creating strategic activities, giving proper instruction, effective classroom management, and students' respect for the teacher and each other can lead to clarity and awareness.

Sense of Creativity

To have collaboration and continuous communication, as teachers, we must create activities that target not only the subject matter but our students' interests, we must plan our activities strategically, and let students perform activities in which all of them can participate. A teacher with a sense of creativity is a unique one, he will innovate and think beyond books and theories, a creative teacher can create his activities and outline his plan to meet his students' expectations and interests. For students, creative activities will allow them to creatively solve problems, provide each other with ideas and construct unique outputs. Having a sense of creativity in teaching leads to more effective and satisfying classes.

Trend

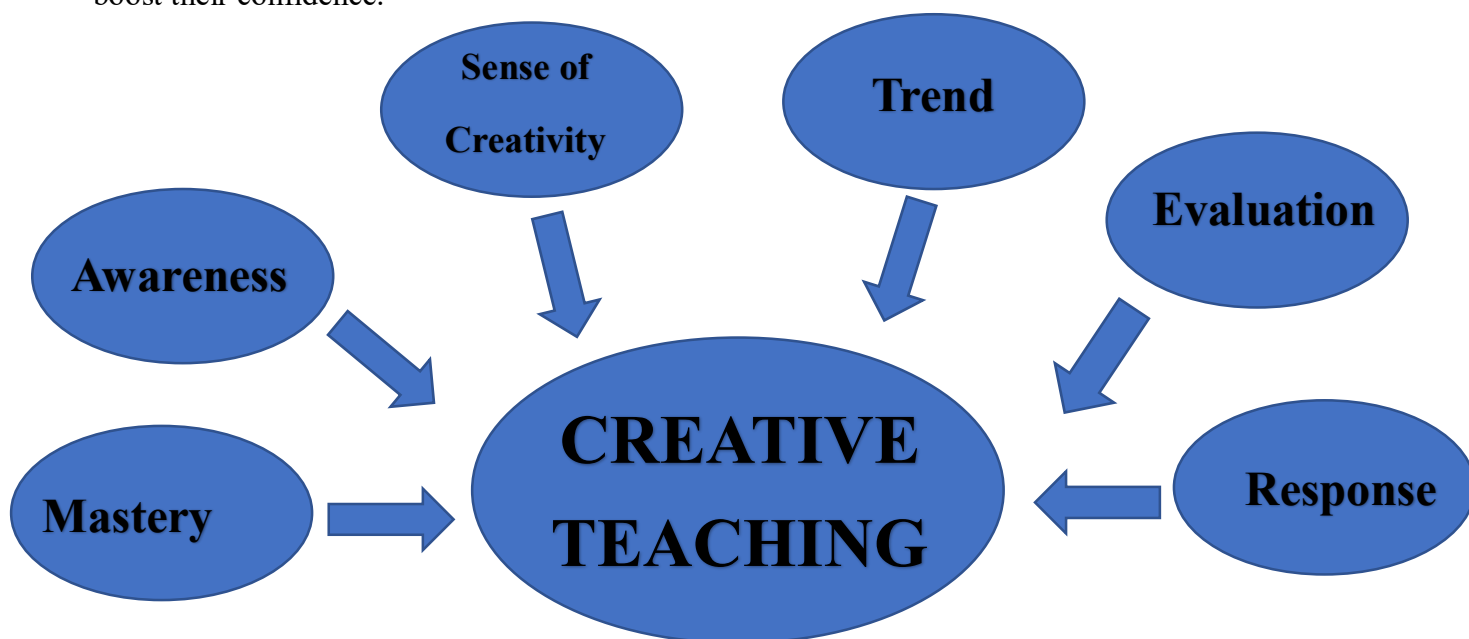
Trends are important in creative teaching strategies, to come up with creative activities, I always look for trends in the classroom, connecting myself to students leads to better connection and a positive teacher-student relationship. Timeliness in constructing activities in class related to students' interests is depending on the topic being discussed but let us apply mastery and our sense of creativity so as teachers we must never stop considering the trends in classroom teaching, let us always find time to read, explore and be open for improvements and criticism.

Evaluation

As we plan our activities in our class, we must evaluate our prepared activities, self-evaluation, and peer evaluation can help identify the weaknesses and strengths in our activity, it can even help us improve and create even more effective activities. Evaluation is a process that leads to results and these results can serve as a guide for us to innovate more effective classroom activities. Students on the other hand can evaluate each other, making them criticize their peers' work leads to boosting their self-esteem and motivates them to learn more.

Response

After the activity, we must provide feedback to students, feedback that tackles commendation, comments, or suggestions. This applies after evaluation, letting students know their points to improve. For students, they can also have the opportunity to provide feedback or creatively we call takeaways. We must be responsible in providing feedback to our students, letting them know their weaknesses can improve them more, and knowing their strengths can boost their confidence.



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Reflection

Learning is believed that it is a continuous process, a process that can never be separated from a person. We can never remove the reality that the approach to students must be inductively applied, we must give focus on their interests and learn from their actions and gestures. The curriculum we follow is a part of creativity, but we are responsible for its development, we must not rely on what is written in books, but we must take advantage of the opportunity given to us, take advantage of the freedom we must enhance our mode teaching, to provide collaboration and excitement in our class. Our class is our way of proving that we deserve to teach and impart our knowledge, without them teachers are just writers of unknown topics, no path to take, and no reason to move forward. Through creative strategies, we can make our class livelier, we can even enhance our students' macro skills, let them speak creatively, write with passion, listen to directions by providing proper and clear ones, and let them read each other's work and provide feedback. A creative teacher is unique, a teacher that integrates unique strategies has a high level of understanding and a high level of setting standards for his students. Let us teach beyond books, let us be creative and let us strategize always.