

Common Core, Student Inquiry and 21st Century Learning



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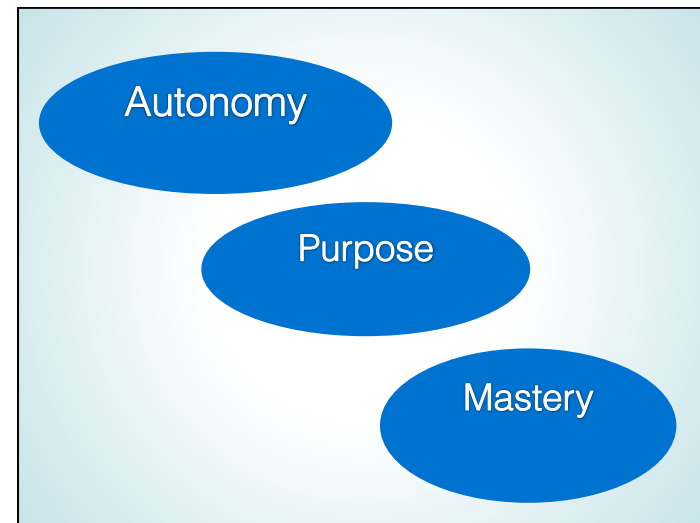
What We'll Do in this Session

- Why does student inquiry motivate our kids?
- Daniel Pink's work *Drive*
- It's rooted in the notion of a really great question. As Rasheed (a 3rd grade student) says, "My questions are more important."

Why Inquiry Matters in the 21st Century



1. What are your big take-aways and how does this impact your teaching?
2. What impact does this have on your classroom and teaching?



The Building Blocks for Personalizing Learning

- What is Universal Design?
- Beginning with the Essential Questions
- Content and Skills
- Assessment

The Starting Place

- Essential Questions
 - Big Questions that drive a unit or lesson
 - They aren't easily answered
 - Meant to raise other questions and curiosity
 - If you can answer it in Wikipedia, it probably isn't an essential question

More on Essential Questions

- Interdisciplinary design is highlighted by a deliberate, elevated, and overt declaration and examination of essential questions, or conceptually oriented questions that spark curiosity and frame the scope and sequence of learning. Essential questions in an interdisciplinary unit are like chapter headings in a book; each one is a focus of inquiry.

• <http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/interdisciplinary/exploration.html>

If kids learn from a curriculum shaped by essential questions, they will be more likely to truly interact with the content. Instead of answering, "Stuff..." when asked what they learned, students will retain higher levels of knowledge. Essential questions are like mental Velcro; they give kids a "sticky" place to which their thoughts adhere. They also give students a sense of ownership of their curriculum from knowing what questions are directing their learning and why.

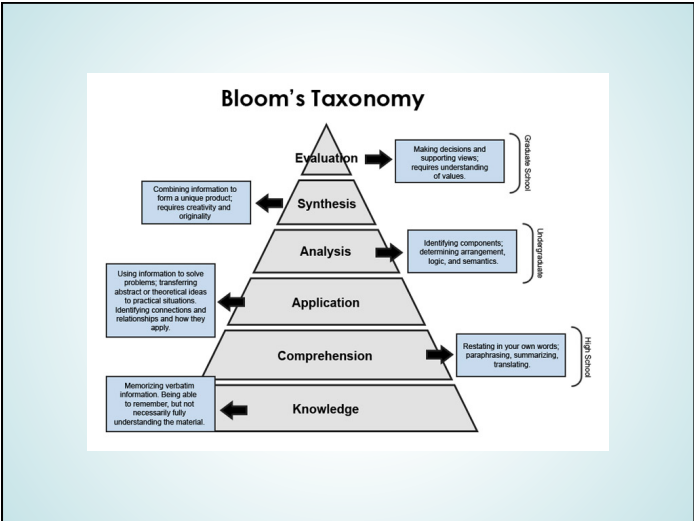
Essential Questions Checklist

- promote higher order thinking
- be anchored in the lives of learners
- be complex enough to be broken down into smaller questions
- relate to real-world problems
- help link concepts and principles across disciplines
- be meaningful
- correspond to the appropriate time frame
- be interesting to learners
- require materials that are readily available
- be relevant to learners' lives

Some Sample Essential Questions

- **Is history a history of progress?**
- **Does art reflect culture or shape it?**
- **Are mathematical ideas inventions or discoveries?**
- **Is gravity a fact or theory?**
- **What are the limits of friendship?**

Learning in the 21st Century



What GCE teacher, Warren Thomas Rocco says:

“Positive surprises are that this works. It works regardless of literacy levels. It works despite the fact that we could’ve been better organized, more tactical in our management of student works online, more committed to encouraging excellence over...merely, completed works. And so on. You can see the potential. We’re learning...”

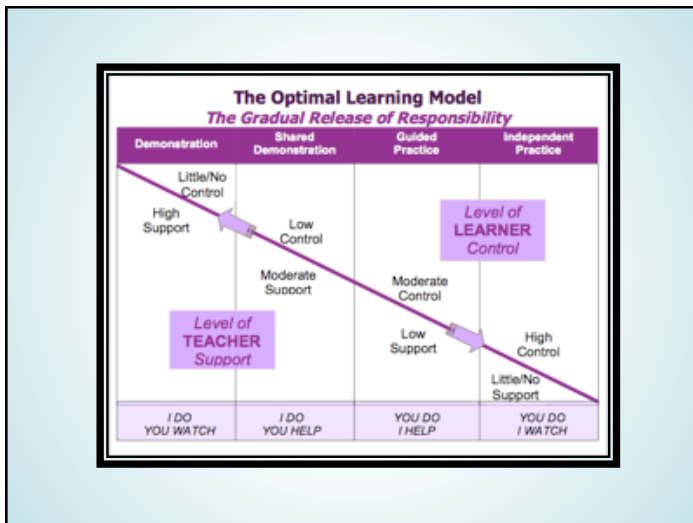
FROM NEW ZEALAND:

pesnua.blogspot.com

The screenshot shows a blog post titled "MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012" by Nga Kaitiaki o PES. The post includes a video player, a "LITERACY CYCLE" diagram, and a "GOOGLE EARTH TRAFFIC" widget. The text of the post discusses an annual Year 7 and 8 camp and the school's transformation into a green city.



Gradual Release of Responsibility Model



You May Already be Doing this in Your Classroom

- Portfolios
- Writing Workshop
- Reading Workshop
- Inquiry Projects
- Webquests
- DI Strategies like anchor charts

Inquiry Checklist

- Figure out what motivates your students (oftentimes it is NOT grades)
- Develop GREAT questions (that matter) with your students
- Integrate Technology
- Use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model in your planning and instruction
- Provide students with choice whenever it's possible

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📖 For more materials and updated powerpoint, see my blog at www.KatherineMcKnight.com

