Praxis Paper

The content area that we decided to primarily focus on was Dramatic Art. Within the subject of Dramatic Art we also decided to do a lesson based on Commedia Dell’Arte. Within Dramatic Art there are an abundance of different learning strategies that can be incorporated different student learning methods. Drama is a different way to express emotion and is a pedagogical tool that helps students draw from experience. When students share their experiences, students are one step closer to understand empathy. Students become engaged with what they’re learning if they can feel a strong connection with the subject matter. In our literacy classroom we promote active learning amongst teachers and students. “In new literacies classrooms, students take part in a mix of individual and collaborative activities.” (39) Students are able to complete individual tasks by working on individual character work, but also work on group activities when they are put into groups to rehearse group scenes.

It is important for students within the area of Drama to realize to be a strong group; you need be a strong individual. An individual dynamic is very different from a group dynamic. Drama comes with active, engaging and positive learning outcomes; if students learn to empathize with different characters, they have a better sense of understanding their character and how to portray them. “All learners will have engaging and empowering learning experiences both in and out of school that prepare them to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in our glob-ally networked society. (39) By enrolling students within the content area of Dramatic Art they will be able to expand their learning strategies by embracing a new side of the education system. Drama is not about writing notes, or learning equations; rather, Drama is about learning through others experiences and discussion. Their creativity will be encouraged by giving them freedom to imagine anything they want and be able to practice their imaginative theory itself.

Students can become empowered to be motivated in school by understanding other student’s wants and needs. Drama needs to be encouraged for all students. It enhances creativity and also promotes knowledgeable learning experiences where the students get to experience problems first hand and not just by reading them from a textbook. By actually applying what they know to real scenario and trying multiple solutions to they find the correct one. Drama is a powerful subject and if used correctly can promote an unstoppable growth in any student.

Reference

Vacca, R., & Vacca, J. (1999). *Content area reading: Literacy and learning across the curriculum* (6th ed.). New York: Longman