Praxis Paper

As intermediate senior Biology teachers we have the opportunity to teach students general science and biology. When teaching science courses it is important to use different methods to gain the students interests (especially in the grade 9 and 10 years when taking science is mandatory). The goal of our multiliteracies project is to create a pedagogical instrument that will grab the student’s attention and get them willing to learn about the human body systems. This video is done as a fun introductory video to allow students to see the information about the digestive system and to gain an understanding before being taught the material by the high school teacher.

As a pre-service teacher it is always stressed to include in lesson plans a minds on or introductory activity. These activities are important because they are used to gain the students attentions and give them the interest needed so they want to learn the material. When students come into classes they are not always in a mindset to want to learn and as teachers we need to get them prepared to learn.

Introductory activities can be hands on activities, videos, discussion, or anything else that grabs the student’s attentions. Using a variety of tools in the classroom as well as differentiated instruction is important, as Vacca, Vacca & Mraz (2014) state “whether you’re a novice or a veteran teacher, effective instruction requires the use of differentiated learning strategies and a willingness to move beyond assigning and telling…”. As teachers we need to include different tools into lessons to gain students attentions and allow for a better learning environment.

Our tool is a fun introductory video. Teachers can use this video to give students a brief introduction to the digestive system. The video briefly goes over the different types of digestion and gives students an overview of the different parts of the digestive system. The video will give students a basic understanding but also some chuckles since a bit of humor is added to the video. This video is also a great tool when it comes to differential instruction. If one of your students has a learning disability then this video can be used to give them a chance to learn the information before you teach it to them (which will build their confidence). And it is also a great video for visual learners who have a difficulty writing down and learning from written notes.

In addition to the video, a lesson is incorporated to further go over the digestive system. The lesson incorporates a note-taking portion to help them gain the material needed for the test. Then there will be a hands-on activity to further the learning of the different parts of the system. The three different methods used in this lesson are all differentiated so that students who learn visually have the video to aid in learning, students who learn by reading have the note portion to help with learning and students who are kinesthetic have the hands on activity. We hope you enjoy using the video and lesson plan to help your students further their education in a fun way!

References

Vacca, R., Vacca, J., & Mraz, M. (2014). Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum (11th ed.).