

Before 654: What knowledge and skills do you feel are most critical to you to learn in this course as they pertain to: 1) your students 2) your teaching 3) your personal creative work? 10 responses

It is important to understand creativity, how to recognize creativity, and how to foster creativity. It is also important to understand and recognize one's own creativity.

This probably pertains to all of the above, honestly. I need to move beyond creativity as an intrinsic but extra process to thinking about theories and practical applications to the creative process.

For my students I want to learn divergent thinking strategies that I can implement into my classroom as well as my teaching. In teaching math there are many challenges to implementing creativity into my personal creative work and my teaching, at times I get stuck in the same patterns. Opening up my creativity opportunities will breathe life back into creating math lessons.

1)- I think it is critical that I learn about how my students minds work. They have minds that are so creative and they truly think outside of the box. I want to be able to understand and allow opportunities for them to share their ideas with others. 2)- As for teaching, I would like to have more ideas and strategies on how to allow my students to think and work creatively. I do enjoy open-ended projects and I would like to learn of more ideas. 3)- I would like to explore my passions and learn about more ways to be creative and see the world differently.

I would like to learn how to better serve my creative ID students, how to identify the traits of creative gifted students, and to be more relaxed in being creative in my personal work (not afraid to take chances).

I feel that understanding models and theories of creative thinking will be critical in knowing how to support students in their learning. I will also use this information to help support teachers who are working directly with students who will benefit from a more creative process and experience in the classroom. On a personal note, this might help me to see my creative side more clearly and be able to embrace it in my life.

Any and all!

I think that it is important for me to recognize signs of creativity in students and how to foster those effectively. I also think it is important for me to learn how to be more creative (or rather tap into my natural creativity) and display that to my students. Lastly, I want to learn how to help students (and myself) overcome their fears and anxieties about making mistakes when they are trying to be creative.

Over the past few years, our district has had us complete a rating scale for Creative Thinking Ability for students who received a certain cognitive score. After that rating scale is completed,

students either get identified with Creative Thinking Ability or not, and that is the end of it. I would like to know more about the background with creative thinking and the research surrounding it. I would also like to learn more about identification in students, and how I can incorporate creative thinking in my teaching and daily lifestyle.

I think that practical and applicable strategies to stretch my and my students' thinking is the most important and influential skill that I can learn in this course. I am looking forward to discovering/rediscovers aspects of my own creativity.

Before 654: What are your thoughts on this statement? "A teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to supporting creativity in the classroom." 11 responses

I agree with this statement. When one knows and is comfortable with their creativity, it is easier to recognize and foster creativity in others.

I'm not sure how many teachers think about personal creativity as relates to the classroom. I know my own experiences with thinking outside the box (maybe not having a box...) have been problematic at times.

Agreed, it's important

While we all have our strengths I believe there are teachers who simply say "I am not creative" and that's the end. Creativity is personal and very diverse so exploring and developing our own personal creativity is the opening or opportunity for evolution of creativity within our own classrooms.

I feel that this is a strong and important statement. A teacher who is creative and shares their passion with his or her students will teach their students to be creative as well. When a teacher realizes the power and importance of creativity, they will push to provide that learning environment for their students.

True, I think with most things, if you are more open with yourself, it is easier to support others with the same.

I feel that there is truth in this statement. We always say that if a student can not only do, but explain to someone else why/how they do something, it shows a deeper understanding. If a teacher is able to explore their own creativity, they are likely to feel more comfortable and familiar with how to use this process to support creativity in their classroom.

I agree - relatability and personal experience often shape how we teach and interact with students and families.

I think that statement makes a lot of sense. If you can practice and display what it is that you are trying to cultivate in your students, I think that is ideal. I do not think I do a great job of this but I am looking forward to trying to find a way to do that more effectively!

I would agree with this statement. I feel the more creative oneself is, the more apt they are to inspire and encourage their students to explore their own creativity. This teacher may also have more of a comfort level and resources available to promote creativity in his or her classroom.

100% true. I know that when I experience periods of creative stagnancy in my own life, I also feel limited in my capacity to help students be creative.

After 654: Where did you feel you made the most growth in this class? What areas do you still feel you need or want to improve? 8 responses

I made the most growth in understanding the creative process and creative people (Piirto's Pyramid). One area I would like to improve upon is a deeper understanding of creative identification.

Time with my own creativity needs improvement but I feel more determined after 654

I feel that I made the most growth in learning about the creativity models. I did not know of the models before and I now can confidently identify and apply the models. I do feel that I need more practice in using the creativity assessments. They are something that I haven't formally used at this point to assess students. I hope to continue to improve in and become confident in assessing students' creativity.

I'd like to learn more about how to integrate the creativity domain with the overexcitabilities of a gifted student. It seems that many of the creative aspects would be difficult for underachievers, perfectionists, etc. I'd like to learn how to encourage and develop these particular students' creativity skills.

I think I made a lot of growth in my understanding of children who are identified gifted and what that actually means. I also grew in my understanding of how to incorporate my creativity and my students' creativity more in the class.

I made the most growth in the areas of knowledge of creativity models and characteristics, seeing creativity around me, and seeing creativity in myself. I realize now that having the opportunity to slow down and be creative helps and will also benefit students when learning in and out of the classroom. There are still areas of creativity and art that I haven't tried yet or don't have much experience in-it would be helpful to at least try and use these in the classroom because different students may benefit from different areas of creativity than myself.

I think I made the most growth with being able to understand what creativity can look like and understanding how important it is to include creativity in the classroom. I got some ideas that I can modify and apply in my new teaching position and I think they will be very helpful. I also have a much better idea of what creativity can look like in a student in the classroom setting. I think I still struggle with my comfort level of implementing divergent to convergent thinking. I also could use some more review of the creativity theories.

I think I've grown a lot in the area of risk-taking. I grew up surrounded by values of hard work, precision, and perfection. In my adult life, I have really tried to open myself up and be creative; this class helped me to practice taking risks and having those risks be supported by research and feedback from the instructor and peers.

After 654 Reflection: Please comment on the course itself, the texts, the instructor, the format, pace, level of challenge, anything you wish to share so that I can improve the course:9 responses

I learned so much about creativity in this class! The pacing was good. The texts were informative. I really appreciate the feedback and encouragement I received from Dr. Groman.

Great platform- easy to understand, good feedback. Knowledgeable professor

I really enjoyed this course. The text readings were insightful and the instructor created activities for us to create connections with them. Though challenging, enough detail and help were given in the weekly videos(love them) completing them was smooth.

I thought this course was well-structured. I felt that it was very organized and the weekly videos that explained the content and expectations were much appreciated. The texts were interesting and taught me a lot about the creativity models. I am inspired by the enthusiasm and kindness that you provide. I truly feel that you have nailed the art of teaching and have so much experience and knowledge to share. I consider myself very lucky to have had the chance to be your student. I felt that the workload for the weeks were fair and not overwhelming. I felt challenged and encouraged to explore in my creative ability. I appreciate the safe atmosphere of the class which made it feel comfortable to take creative risks. Thanks for everything Dr. Groman!

The amount of work required in the 6 weeks was stressful. I can understand how the work would be manageable and more meaningful on a deeper level across a 12 week course, however it felt very surface level across the 6 weeks. It felt rushed.

I loved this course. I learned a lot more than I thought I would going into the course. Studying Beatrix Potter was one of my favorite activities because I had read all of her books as a child and read them to my children. She is one of my favorite authors even more now because I understand the meaning behind her stories and how/why they were written. It is actually so interesting to me.

The instructor was fantastic! I would have loved to be involved in more in person discussion/classes, but even virtual, she was able to make the connections. The weekly videos with activities and a run down of assignments and what was expected were truly helpful. I enjoyed the readings, the reflections, feedback and getting out of my comfort zone with creativity.

First, I think Dr. Groman is the PERFECT professor for this course. Her connection to creativity and passion for it makes it so much easier to dive into the course and embrace the vulnerability needed to make the learning as meaningful as possible. I loved that we as adult learners had to become creative risk-takers in this course. That taught its own lesson that a textbook or video lesson could not do. I enjoyed a lot of what we did. Although it is not as fun, I do think I needed some more direct instruction with regard to theories and state expectations with regard to creativity. I also would have loved a week dedicated to ideas for creativity in the classroom. I think the right idea was there with FQ5, I just needed some more support and interaction with peers in that area. My favorite part of this course was the biographical sketch. I really loved that project and I learned a lot about Piirto concepts through application of them to a specific individual. Also, the final creativity project was really neat once we got to see what everyone else had come up with. Thank you for pushing us to engage with creativity and for helping us see the validity of that for our students!

This has been my favorite course in the gifted ed. program by far! I love the options for studying creative individuals, choices in assignments, and applicability of concepts. The only aspect of the class that I would change is the way the creativity project was embedded into the course. I would have liked to share my work and see my peers' work throughout the process, as opposed to just the culmination of the work.

After 654 Reflection: What are your thoughts on this statement? "A teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to support creativity in the classroom." 9 responses

Yes!!! I couldn't agree more! Exploring my own creativity has shown me the importance of providing creative opportunities in my classroom for my students. It also helps me to understand frustrations my students may encounter when they create, because I have encountered frustrations of my own and have had to find a way to work through those feelings. I can connect with my students in this. When I explore my creativity, it is "me time". I think I am a better teacher, mother, wife, and friend when I have that time to myself because it helps me feel refreshed.

I still think this is very true, it's hard to support what you do not quite understand. I'm sure it can be done, but it will be done well if it's first understood.

I totally agree with this statement. Making connections with your creative side and sharing it with students builds stronger relationships and opens doors for them to use their creative side in your classroom

So much truth in this statement. We are role models for our students and I feel that is so powerful when a student can see their role model taking a risk in being creative. I have learned the importance of sharing my creativity with my students and also showing them my areas of strength, but also my areas that I am working to improve in creativity. The more that I can be transparent about my creativity, the higher the chance that my students will feel safe to explore in their creative sense.

Understanding the process of what it takes to be creative or publish a creative piece of work better prepares the educator on how to hone specific skills for the student.

Until you try something yourself you don't have that understanding of the risks and feelings that come along with some of the aspects of being creative (putting yourself out there) and I think that you learn how much meaning and understanding students are able to show through their creative abilities.

I agree with this statement. I believe that you have to be comfortable and have experiences to be able to share with students. We often say that students who are able to explain it to others have a true understanding of the topic/subject and I feel like this with creativity--if I have a similar experience or have tried the activity, then I can help my students understand and guide them through as needed. Also, if you explore your own creativity and see the importance of that, you are more likely to include those types of activities in your classroom for students to experience--you see the importance and want to provide the opportunity for students as well.

The simple answer is that I strongly agree with the statement. If we lack a personal connection to creativity, it is more challenging to recognize, inspire, and nurture the creativity that our students possess. By remaining active creators, we encourage that trait in our students and are more apt to include creativity in our instruction.

As I said before this class, 100% agree. Exploring my own creativity gives me life! When I feel energized and inspired this translates to my teaching and the encouragement and support I provide to my students.