

E-Culture Abstract for Worksho0070

Title: How can I help my students improve their ability to generate novel ideas?

Author: Mathilda Joubert

Position: Academic Development Consultant, Centre for Learning and Development

Contact details: Centre for Learning and Development
Edith Cowan University
270 Joondalup Drive
Joondalup WA 6027
Phone (08) 6304 2140
Fax (08) 6304 2344
E-mail: m.joubert@ecu.edu.au

Session type: Workshop, preferably 1 hour long

Key Words: Generate ideas; creative thinking; innovation

Abstract:

Today's graduates are faced with unprecedented economic, technological, cultural and social change. To succeed and thrive in the 21st Century workplace they need more than disciplinary knowledge; they also need generic skills. The ability to generate ideas is a much valued skill by employers today and it is one of the ECU Graduate Attributes. It enables individuals to develop a range of novel solutions to challenging problems, to be imaginative, adaptable and apply innovative thinking in their professional practice.

The ability to develop novel and innovative ideas is not a talent that you either have or don't have; it is a skill that can be learnt and developed. We often encourage our students to "be creative" or "generate lots of novel ideas", but this may leave them wondering: "what exactly do I have to do to come up with lots of novel ideas?" If we want to guarantee that our graduates develop the ability to generate ideas "we need to move beyond negligence to intentionality" (Harper and Quaye, 2009). During this interactive workshop we will explore strategies for explicitly teaching the ability to develop ideas and we will consider how to embed this into discipline-based teaching practice within the context of curriculum internationalisation. We will also take a glimpse at a new research-informed Creative Thinking Toolkit that is currently being developed by the author.

Author biography:

Mathilda Joubert is a leading expert in creativity and innovation. She has done research for the UK government on the encouragement of creativity in education, has advised on curriculum policy in countries like Lithuania, the UK and Australia and she has worked as

innovation consultant with companies around the world, including Philips, Diageo, the BBC and Unilever. Mathilda regularly presents keynote presentations around the world; she has degrees in music, languages, education, business and cognitive neuropsychology and now works at the Centre for Learning and Development at ECU.

Selected publications:

- Joubert, M.M. (2010). EXCITE – EXcellence, Creativity and Innovation in Teaching and Education. In *Imagine That!* (eds. Williams, C. & Nolan, V.) USA, Massachusetts: Synectics Inc.
- Joubert, M.M. (2002) *Challenging Convention: Creativity in Organisations*. London: Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.
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- National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education. (1999). *All Our Futures: Creativity, Culture and Education*. London: Department for Education and Employment. (Co-author with Sir Ken Robinson)
- Storey, H. & Joubert, M.M. (2004). *The emotional dance of creative collaboration*. In Collaborative Creativity: Contemporary perspectives. (eds. Miell, D. & Littleton, K.). London: Free Association Books.