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STEM Society An Intro to Inquiry-Based Teaching

Megan Nas and Trisha Paul

This lesson was designed to introduce college students to inquiry-based teaching.

Engagement: Prior knowledge about Inquiry-Based Teaching.

This is a chance to address and discuss previous ideas and misconceptions regarding the concept of inquiry-based teaching. Allow students to brainstorm.

- ❖ What is Inquiry-Based Teaching?
- How has it been experienced in the classroom?

Exploration: An explanation of what Inquiry-Based Teaching is.

Discuss the defining characteristics of Inquiry-Based Teaching.

- Empowers students to take charge of their learning
- Teachers ask instead of tell
- ❖ Asking guiding questions and answering student's questions
- Students apply knowledge to new scenarios
- Classroom environment parallels what scientists face in the real world

Explanation: Applying Inquiry-Based methods to our lessons.

In small groups, walk through the 5E lesson outlines and discuss how to present them in ways that emphasize inquiry-based learning.

- How can we incorporate these techniques to make inquiry-based lessons?
- ❖ What background information must students be provided with so that they can arrive at conclusions on their own?

Elaboration: Understanding the imperfections of Inquiry-Based Teaching.

There are times when Inquiry-Based Teaching may not be the most effective. Hypothesize about situations when this may be true and discuss why.

- When is inquiry-based teaching appropriate?
- ❖ When is it problematic?
- ❖ How can we distinguish between when it is appropriate or not?
- ❖ Need basic foundation of knowledge first
- Ex. Instructions for data collection often needed for consistency's sake

Evaluation: Assessment of understanding.

With exposure to the Inquiry-Based Teaching method, revise the $5\mathrm{E}$ outline to reflect these techniques.

- ❖ Which of the 5E's did you change the most?
- * How does Inquiry-Based Teaching improve the effectiveness of the lesson?
- ❖ Moving forward, what are some take-home messages about Inquiry-Based Teaching?