Inquiry-Based Learning to Boost Student Engagement

What is Inquiry-Based Learning?

IBL teaching doesn’t need to feel daunting, it just needs to feel inclusive and allow for student autonomy. Inquiry-based learning is an approach that emphasizes the student’s participation in the learning process. Instead of students simply following a teacher’s lead, they are responsible for forming questions, seeking answers, and drawing conclusions. This type of learning allows students to better understand and recall material by actively engaging with it and making their own connections. New knowledge becomes stored in the brain more efficiently if we have created a need for it and made the connections. Guided learning as opposed to memorizing of facts and materials. In other words, students are more likely to remember information when they are actively engaged and motivated because the direction of the learning is being controlled by the students themselves.

We retain 75 percent of what we do, compared with 5 percent of what we hear and 10 percent of what we read. What Is Inquiry-Based Learning?

We can help our students learn the how and why of engagement through inquiry-based teaching. Inquiry allows students to have an increase in the success of learning, critical thinking and reasoning, and knowledge retention. Students naturally emphasizes inquiry-based learning.

How can I get all students to be inquirers each day?

What can I do differently next time?

What went well?

How can I help students learn about their own learning styles while reducing the emphasis on memorizing facts?

How can I program AAC devices with questions or question prompts (“can the” “does it” “will he”)?

How can I use the 5 E method with all students?

How can I be open-minded as to how the model could apply to communicating through writing, drawing, speaking, scribing, pointing to a picture exchange system, visuals, etc.?

How can I adapt and ready to use in the inquiry-based models for science experiments, cooking experiments, and other lessons to be found in the AAC community as well as other classrooms that are engaged in learning?

How to Deliver Engagement-Based Learning

In this approach to learning, what does the teacher’s role require?

What is the role of the teacher in the inquiry-based model?

In what ways does the teacher guide this process?

How can I attain this balance to develop the necessary skill sets in my students?

How can I help students develop their own core ideas and theories and content?

In what ways can I explore the journey that they take you on?

How can I be an expert?

How can I model the process as you walk them through the journey?

How can I be open to personal responses and personal connections?

How can I provide for all students, “What can I wonder?” after presenting material.

What can I ask students, “What do you wonder?” after presenting material.

What do I believe about student learning and what can I understand about them?

What are my learning goals and what are my expectations with support.

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Reflection: The Final Stage of Inquiry

With the 5 E method, Inquiry-Based Learning provides an excellent opportunity for students to reflect on their learning, to develop new questions and think about how they can apply that learning to real-world problems. We encourage you to share your experiences with us!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cara Luce is an intervention specialist who has spent 10 years working with students who have specialized learning needs at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Cara earned a Master of Education degree from Cleveland State University.

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