

Transforming Level 5 Learning



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Overview Methodology Outcomes Student interviews and feedback

By Sarah-Jane Crowson

Overview

Hereford College of Arts



An investigation into how teachers might use non-formal learning methodologies to first identify and then transform 'grey spaces' within their learning environments into self-directed learning spaces, and how far this improves outcomes for level 5 students.

Key Literature



Research Question



Context



Key Findings

The most tangible benefit to creating less formal spaces within the learning environment is that of improved **student confidence** in classes.

Findings also suggest that groups who were part of the action research project felt their meta-cognitive abilities had improved during Level 5 study and **students working on pass/fail borderlines did better in their assignment than those in control groups.**

Students involved in the research project were very positive regarding the sessions and student interviews with members of research groups are very clear **that working in small groups is a style which suited them, and that they gained confidence through working in this, less formal, style.** The more relaxed atmosphere might support engagement, and it is possible the **non-formal groupings might have encouraged learners to develop more confidence**, particularly those working at the pass/fail borderlines.

Finally, data collected from learners' own self-assessment suggests strongly that **the less formal learning environment improved learners' skills** as independent learners.



Recommendations

This model could be adopted easily to a range of different contexts: I would certainly recommend that students and staff engage with mutually agreed identification of 'grey spaces' within their own classroom, and discuss ways to transform these. For certain contexts, the creation of non-formal learning spaces could be substituted by slightly more formal activities; for example Action Learning Sets, or reflective/kinaesthetic activities such as group work on a visual summary of their learning.

Student interviews and feedback



Learner Feedback

...good to know what everyone else is doing and bounce ideas back and forth and organise...

...I think the 'post it note day' was a turning point for me, in applying the theorists to my chosen subject. I also think my mark reflects how much I just didn't understand the last time around and how what I have learnt since will just make the dissertation so much easier to compile...

...Interaction during the session helps more ideas and more focus for the session...