

10 TED Talks to Transform your Teaching

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November 12, 2010

What makes an idea worth spreading? (www.ted.com)

What can you do with TED Talks?

Transform your Craft

TED Talk: Charles Leadbetter

TED Talk: Sugata Mitra

Purposes: Track educational movements, understand advances in multiple disciplines, be deliberate with your communication, and appreciate who you are teaching.

Creative Problem Solving

TED Talk: Ed Ulbrich

TED Talk: Nathan Wolfe

TED Talk: Peter Tyack (NEW! The Intriguing Sound of Marine Animals)

Possible Student Projects

Speaker CPS

- Evaluate how the speaker solves the problem. What steps does he/she take? Would you have done it any differently? Was it effective? Why?
- Missing steps: What steps did the speaker neglect? Why do you think they were left out? Write a letter to the speaker to ask for further clarification on their problem solving experiences.

Student CPS

- Using the CPS framework, create another possible solution for the presented problem. Create a presentation for the building acceptance portion.
- Inevitably solving one problem brings to light several others. Examine potential problems that the speakers' solution will trigger. Using the CPS framework, think through several possible solutions to this new problem.

The CPS model was taken from: <http://www.creativelearning.com/FreePDFs.htm#cps6>.

Interdisciplinary Connections

TED Talk: Jacek Utko

TED Talk: Chimamanda Adichie

Possible Student Projects

- Ideas: Identify the interdisciplinary concepts in this talk. You may use the Transferrable Concepts List to help guide your thinking. Then give several examples of this concept in two other disciplines.

Transferable Concepts

Abundance/scarcity
 Acceptance/rejection
 Adaptation
 Aging/maturity
 Balance
 Change/continuity
 Character
 Communities
 Conflict
 Connections
 Cooperation
 Correlation
 Courage
 Creativity
 Culture
 Cycles
 Defense
 Democracy

Discovery
 Diversity
 Environment
 Equilibrium
 Evolution
 Exploration
 Fairness
 Friendship
 Harmony
 Honor
 Interactions
 Interdependence
 Invention
 Justice
 Liberty
 Loyalty
 Migration
 Mood

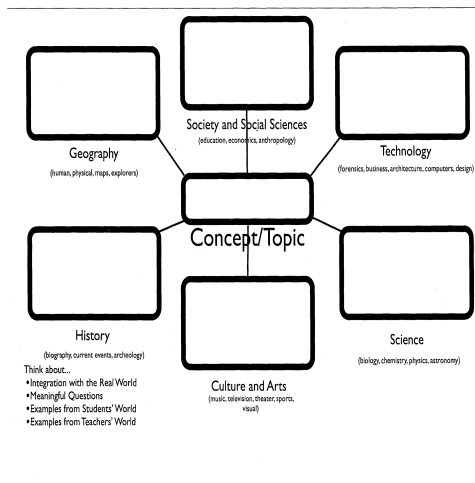
Order
 Patterns
 Perspective
 Production
 Proof
 Power
 Repetition
 Rhythm
 Survival
 Symbol
 System
 Technology
 Tyranny
 Variance/variable
 Wealth

•Solutions: What other fields would benefit from his/her ideas? How might the ideas be adjusted to improve this other discipline? Find someone in another field that would benefit, and construct a letter informing him/her how this idea might benefit his/her work.

•Pretend you watched this talk with _____ (famous person from your current unit of study) and _____ (famous person from another field). What do you think they would talk about after the talk?

•No ideas are born in a vacuum. What do you think inspired this person? What other ideas from other fields added to this person's new idea?

2 Bonus Ideas: Use graphic organizers to help them brainstorm connections or show a talk from a different field and ask students to make/find the connections to the field they are currently studying.



Socratic Seminars

TED Talk: Andrew Mwenda

TED Talk: Yann Arthus-Bertrand

Hint: If you want to conduct a seminar based on a TED talk, you may want to give the students a copy of the transcripts so that they can make notes while they watch the talk. To do this, click on Open Interactive Transcript on the right side, next to About this Talk and copy and paste into a word document.

Possible Seminar Set-Up (National Paideia Center, 2003)

Pre-Seminar

- Content:** Present relevant background information. Prepare participants to discuss the text. What is the relevant information? (You may want to give the students an opportunity to think about this at home or overnight.)
- Process:** Review objectives and guidelines. Prepare participants to participate in seminar discussion, self-assess, and set goals. What should we work on as a group and as individuals to make this a good seminar?

Seminar

- Opening:** Identify main ideas. What is the speakers' purpose? What would be a good title for this talk? (Make sure the students are supporting their answers.) What is the speaker's passion? What is the most important idea?
- Core:** Focus and analyze details. What is meant by...? Is this the appropriate solution? What is the difference between this speakers' approach and...? How do you think this speech would be viewed by...? Did the speaker support his or her ideas? Is any of the information misleading? What further experiments might be completed to support this perspective?
- Closing:** Personalize and apply the textual ideas. What does this speech teach us about...? How do these ideas relate to our curriculum? What are the barriers to the implementation of this solution or idea? Why is this important? What are other related questions? What did you learn from the other participants? Do you have any ideas for improving the speaker's ideas?

Post-Seminar

- Process:** Assess individual and group participation in seminar. Refer to recent past discussions as well as future discussions. What did we do well during our discussion?
- Content:** Extend the application of textual and discussion ideas. What are your new ideas?

Social Responsibility

TED Talk: E. O. Wilson

TED Talk: Jaime Oliver

Possible Student Projects

- Apply for the TED Prize. Write a speech that clearly delineates how you would use the money (\$100,000) and the publicity TED offers to change the world. Use the nomination criteria to construct a meaningful proposal.

- Evaluate three of the past winners. Why did their ideas win? What makes them significant? Evaluate their progress. If you were the head of a funding agency, which program would you continue to fund and why?
- How can you get involved with one of the recent TED winners? How can you use your strengths to help their wish come true?

Future Career Goals and Role Models

TED Talk: Majora Carter

TED Talk: Jane Chen

Possible Student Projects

- Journals: How are you like the speaker? How are you different? Have you ever thought about doing something in that specific field? How could you contribute? What ideas do you have? About what questions do you wonder? What do you admire about the speaker?
- Research other people who work on that problem. What characteristics do they have in common? How are they different?
- Create an interview protocol. What would you like to know about this person and what he/she does? Look online to see if you can find answers to your questions, and email the person the questions you cannot find answers to.

Please share your adventures with me! Lisa.rubenstein@uconn.edu

Presentation References

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