

Using Lasallian Principles to Educate Students for the Future

Abstract: Abstract: Cognizant of the need to improve the way innovation is taught, we develop a unique approach, which builds upon three values of our college's Lasallian tradition: together by association, vigilance and attention to students, and a focus on practical knowledge. We have tested our exercises with a traditional undergraduate population and we are currently working with students who are facing a challenging educational environment in Bethlehem University. Part of a college's service mission is to unite students across disciplines, schools, and countries and to teach them how to manage their careers so that their technical and interpersonal skills can transcend borders.

Keywords: Innovation, change, creativity, flexibility, critical thinking, interdisciplinary

Session Format: Activity or exercise

Best suited for class: A traditional classroom

Best suited for students: Either

Time Requested: 30 Minutes

Manhattan College is a college that is run by the Brothers of the Christian Schools which was founded by Jen Baptiste De La Salle. The vision and methodologies of pedagogy at Lasallian schools globally try to follow the precepts set down by the founder 400 years ago and update them to educational needs today. Interactive instructional methodologies were not of De La Salle's time, but are of ours. We are working to share best practices as we each discover them or find them across the Lasallian network.

We have begun a pilot project with Bethlehem University that offers joint student interactions in problem based learning environments to both sets of students. We want to move our students from sitting and trying to soak up information to becoming more active learners and to be able to think creatively to develop innovations. We have a class in management of innovation where students engage in creativity/innovation exercises to 1. Find out where they are uncomfortable with being asked to do something that is outside of their normal skill set and 2. Have practice in being faced with unusual requests or situations that need them to help move the group closer to an answer. There is a lot of discussion about problem based learning and how engaging in those types of activities helps to cement the concepts or theories more deeply to the student. These exercises, we hope, act in the same way as well as allowing students to see that knowing exactly what will happen in advance is not a requirement for success.

Exercises

1 newspaper, 2. extreme situation, 3. extreme photos

Towers Answer these questions

- a. This is a look at skill and teamwork
- b. How important is skill in being able to innovate?
- c. What was the effect of teamwork on the success of the exercise?
- d. Should help be given as a reward to the group that was already able to build a higher tower?
- e. What skills did you find were most helpful?
- f. What did you learn about yourself.?

Extreme Scenario 2

The storm last night was incredible. It started at about midnight. The winds were howling. It seemed like the earth was moaning - keening with disappointment that spring was not coming last night after the pretty day that we had experienced that day. The rain started to fall and then increased in violence and intensity until it was raining sideways. Then the polar vortex, bad luck or just plain Mother Nature' orneryness - the temperature started to drop, a degree an hour and then somewhere around 4 am, the temperature started dropping 3 degrees an hour. The rain became frozen on the road, ground, sidewalks, houses, cars, subway trains, LIRR trains - everything. By 6 am on Tuesday, the tri-state area looked like a winter wonderland with 5 inches of ice covered by 20 inches of snow.

Subways are frozen and cannot be used. Cars and trucks have to be chiseled out of the ice and the batteries are probably dead from the cold.



Now what?

What needs to be done?

What do you do first?

Each of you have Post-it notes -

1. I want you to write ideas on them and I want about 100 ideas from each group for the next 15 minutes.
2. Stick them to the walls.

** have a note taker for the group so you can post in the shared folder in Google - your thoughts.

3. Categorize the thoughts and actions
4. Arrange in importance order what needs to be done
5. Arrange in time order what needs to be done.
6. Write to me the plan that you think would be the best.

Extreme Photos

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B28CNakQVfguRF9QYmVLckZJcjQ&usp=sharing>

You are to use the pictures provided to create associations that occur to you and then use these associations for idea generation for an improvement to a single major appliance - stove, cooktop, washer, dryer, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher. Write up how the change you will make will add to the ideal consumer experience with the product and solve a problem.

