Creativity and Digital Learning

Follow Emmanuel as he develops creative thinking through digital technologies.

Consuming and Creating Content

Emmanuel has been learning about air pressure as part of his physics class. He has watched a number of clips from an online video tutorial site, which he is required to complete outside of class time. In class, he discusses the video content with his teacher and his lab group. The group brainstorms creative ideas on how they could expand the experiments or use a different method to prove the hypothesis. Then they use digital multimedia tools to film and edit their investigations and upload them to an online video-sharing site for peer review.

Building Creativity through Personalization and Choice

Emmanuel is working on a social science assignment about climate change and how it affects the quality of life. Last week, he brainstormed a list of specific questions he had about the effects of climate change and used an online concept-mapping tool to connect related questions in a complex mind map. From this web of connected questions, Emmanuel determined his research topic.

Emmanuel's teacher provided the class with a project rubric that included content indicators as well as indicators for creativity. Based on his research questions and target audience, he generated a list of creative ideas of how to best present his research to inform and influence his audience.

Self-Reflection and Direction on Creativity

Over the past year, Emmanuel has been maintaining a blog site with written reflections on his learning and digital samples of his best work. His blog has become an important part of his learning and he is now starting to see the real value of using this type of technology. The blog entries are dated, allowing Emmanuel to view his progress over time.

Today Emmanuel is reviewing the blog to determine his progress on a personal creativity goal he established at the start of the year: "When I create, write, or take action, I think of unusual and surprising ways to make what I do more useful, interesting, and beautiful." Emmanuel looks back through his blog and reflects on his progress with his creativity goal, and then he writes another blog entry and updates his goals for the next month.

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