Classrooms that Support Creativity

Classroom practices that inhibit creative thinking	Classroom practices that support creative thinking
Emphasis on factual knowledge, recall, and reproduction	**A creative environment:** • Accepts divergent ideas • Encourages new and unusual solutions to a problem • Promotes content learning through collaboration and questioning
Procedural learning activities with restricted choices	**A creative environment:** • Provides students with choices • Encourages self-direction • Allows for inquiry-based discovery
A regimented schedule or excessive structure	**A creative environment:** • Provides structure with some freedom for creative thought • Allows time for thinking and reflection
Teacher-centric instructional design	**A creative environment:** • Focuses on students' strengths and interests • Allows for self-directed learning
Emphasis on assessment of content knowledge	**A creative environment:** • Incorporates creativity indicators into content assessment • Values the process, not just the product
Competition and frequent failures	**A creative environment:** • Values risk-taking and promotes learning from mistakes • Boosts self-confidence • Encourages students to reach beyond their comfort zone without fear of failure or high-stakes consequences

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