EFFECTIVE TEACHING THROUGH CREATIVITY

AURELIA I. CANARE
Principal I
Samal National High School (Annex)

Sembrano and Rivera define creativity as a fresh response which is unique to the creator and is characterized by personal initiative and conscious effort. It involves thinking and doing according to self-applied tests and is finally judges as an accurate expression by the initiator.

A creative person is one who sees things while others cannot, and things are used for the benefit of the majority. This creativeness can be largely used in teaching. In the words of Adler, teaching as a cooperative art, like farming and healing, involves a relation between the mind of the learners and that of the teacher. The latter is not a talking book, a nice music player or broadcast to audience. Between the teacher and the learner exists an intangible personal interchange of ideas, the teacher, giving and the student, receiving aid and guidance for the development of his mind. The teacher inculcates to the students how learn and think independently and respond intelligently. Such respond and growth are a teacher’s reward.

However, a teacher cannot transform a learner without being creative to cope up with the rapidly changing approaches, methods, techniques and strategies aside from teaching skills, the important attributes a very creative, effective and efficient teacher should have and which he/she should aspire for, like: approachability, cheerfulness, optimism, sense of humor, sociability, pleasing voice.

A creative teacher allows for individual differences in using different strategies in every learning task. The same way that he/she must be sure that these approaches are meaningful and every learning task are properly matured, presented and evaluated.

A common scenario in the classroom is using the predominant practice in content area teaching which involves the use of one type of text – the textbook, often at the exclusion of the other types of texts.

One concrete example of being creative is using literature in content area teaching. Research has shown that teachers’ creativity is being displayed in finding ways to transform students into effective and efficient learners. The inclusions of children’s literature to introduce and reinforce lessons leads to ease in understanding of these concepts. A creative teacher realizes that through this, children readily and actively explore mathematical ideas, social studies concepts, both content areas, with enthusiasm. Creative teachers can see how math, social studies, science and other content areas can be authentic in terms of its reality in daily life.

At the end, children discover facts, rules and social conventions, improve creatively those already in existence and may discover methods by which they can continue this creative process initiated by the teacher. In the evolution of creative endeavors, a teacher should not thwart the creativity of children with discouraging remarks.

Source:
Filomena V. Rivera, Toward Effective Teaching. mandaluyong City: National Book Store, 2005