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Cultivating Engagement Through Student-Centered Learning in a High School Media Art Class

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Cultivating Engagement Through Student-Centered Learning in a High School Media Arts Class

Dominican University of California, School of Education & Counseling Psychology

By Dyane Goldman

Scholarly and Creative Works Conference 2017

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Introduction

- **Research Question**

What can be done to engage and motivate high school students in a required Media Arts course

- **Traditional vs Student-Centered**

Student-Centered: An approach to education allowing for independence and self-direction

- ***Montessori***

- ***Dewey***

Pioneers in the area of a student-centered education model



Review of The Literature

Review of the literature supports student-centered learning environments

- ***Impact of Learner-Centered Classrooms***

Motivation and interest for high school student

- ***Transforming the Classroom Through Choice***

Students and teachers working together in cooperation

- ***Shifting Roles of Students***

*From passive consumers of content
to creators of content*



The Study

Three Classes Choose Student-Centered

One class choose traditional

The impact, process and implementation of the study

Surveys showed

Students appreciation for autonomy and freedom

Student reflections:

“I felt many people in the classroom were more determined...I felt creative” and another wrote; “I certainly felt more motivated to do my project”.

Qualitative Approach

Direct observation, unstructured interviews, written reflections and surveys

Teacher Action Research (TAR)

The purpose for selecting this approach; is to allow for data collection on student engagement, in a structured and consistent environment over time.

Findings & Conclusions

Observations

Students working, engaged, interested

Critical Eye - Instructional Coach

*Observing before and during implementation of student-centered unit
suggestions for future implementation*

Limitations/Gaps in the Research

Limited to number of subjects and site of study

Conclusions and Significance

*Positive improvement of student outcomes - student motivation - self-regulation
Possible use for helping with teacher burnout*

Any Questions?