
Effective learning in classrooms: an appreciative inquiry

In every classroom something works well. It's important to identify these aspects:

- to remind ourselves of our own achievements, and learn from how they occurred
- to carry forward into the future the best parts of our past (we have more confidence in moving into the unknown when we carry with us parts of the known).

Take a few minutes to think of a classroom you know, in which the sense of learning has been really positive. Maybe there has been engagement, excitement, reflection, whatever.

Choose the best experience you can. When you have identified that situation, do all you can to reconstruct it in your mind's eye - recall the room, the conditions, the people and so on. Capture in concrete detail the things that made that experience possible.

Make some notes here on the following:

The occasion

What was positive about the learning

How you make sense of this positive occasion, how it was made possible

In pairs, discuss your different experiences, valuing the differences and starting to think about what you can take forward from that experience.

Try to capture some of what you have identified into a provocative proposition about this classroom:

"To me effective learning in classrooms happens when ..."