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### Approaches to Train Students' Creative Thinking in College Art Education

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### **Abstract**

Higher education aims to cultivate innovative talents and innovative talents, and train students' creative thinking through different courses. Art is a kind of artistic expression and also an important course. It plays a great role for students' development. College art education should train students' creative thinking and divergent thinking through art education and promote development of students' creative thinking, which contributes to students' integrated development.

**Key words:** Art education; Creative thinking; Training

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### INTRODUCTION

Creative thinking is a kind of thinking activity with wide significance. Creative thinking requires people to cognize a new thing or a new field through unique thinking perspective through brainwork. In general, creative thinking is constructed on the basis of general thinking and generated through continuous cultivation. It is a kind of advanced thinking ability. Hence, training students' creative thinking in college art education has high practical significance.

# 1. SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAINING STUDENTS' CREATIVE THINKING

Training students' creative thinking contributes to national development and era progress. The fact has proven that human civilization cannot be separated from the creation. Technological development also cannot be separated from creation, let alone educational reform. Next, this paper discusses the importance of training students' creative thinking.

### 1.1 Training Creative Thinking Is the Need of Era

Practice comes from innovation. Thinking is the mother of innovation. The success or failure of innovation is decided by thinking. With the rapid development of technology, only the talents brave in innovation can become the strong in this era. Those who stand still and refuse to make progress can only become the eliminated of the era. Only those brave in innovation may own the future. College students are the hope of the motherland and the pillars of motherland construction. The development of a country and a nation depend on students' knowledge. National development needs socialism successors with innovative thinking. The era development calls young people with innovative thinking.

Teachers not just should import professional knowledge, but also train students' ability and especially innovative thinking ability. Job opportunity and future career development of students in vocational and technical schools depend on the ability. For colleges, teachers should both train students' ability and impart knowledge, but some teachers misunderstand knowledge for skills and consider that more knowledge one master, stronger skills one owns. In fact, knowledge is not equal to skills. In theory, more knowledge one master, weaker operating skills one may own. Thus, teachers should pay attention to training basic skills and cultivating students' creative thinking ability in the teaching process. The education

of many western countries deserves our reference. The education of western countries stresses practice and operational ability and lays emphasis on combining theory and practice. The educational form in China is mostly based on exam-oriented education and lacks training of practical ability and creative ability. This reminds us that we should understand this problem with innovative thinking. China's exam-oriented education indeed ignores training of students' practical ability and creative ability. We should lay emphasis on heuristic education, motivate students' learning interest with enlightenment and guidance, create a free environment for students' creative thinking, and make students explore their potential in the free environment and find out their differences, instead of repeating what books say blindly. As the old saying goes, "teaching one to fish is better than giving him fish". Teachers should teach students how to learn rather than pure knowledge imparting.

### 1.2 Contribute to Exploiting College Students' Potential

Training students' innovative thinking contributes to college students to achieve social value and value of life. Human potential is reflected in the exploitation process. During training students' innovative thinking, students' inherent and unknown potential can be exploited. Maybe they themselves do know some abilities. If you possess some unique skills in fierce talent competition, you may further achieve your value of life.

## 1.3 Contribute to Training Professional Talents for The Society

Training students' innovative thinking contributes to communication of Chinese culture and development of Chinese civilization. Students are the disseminators and successors of culture and civilization. Thus, training professional talents can make Chinese culture better known by foreigners. Cultural communication plays a great role for the development of politics and economy, can make Chinese civilization inherited and achieve great rejuvenation of Chinese civilization.

# 2. INFLUENCING FACTORS OF CREATIVE THINKING

### 2.1 Train Fantasy Thinking

Psychologists propose that the human brain has four functional parts: feeling zone, storage zone, judgment zone and imaginative zone. We often use the storage zone and judgment zone, while the imagination zone is applied last and also has the most development significance. According to the researches of psychologists, only 15% of imagination zones have been developed and the remaining is still in the non-development state. To develop this treasured place, it is required to start from training fantasy.

Einstein said, "imagination is more important than knowledge". The fact has proven this. The emergence of the first airplane in the world resulted from people's fantasy that they could fly with the wings. Fantasy is the source of inspiration and also the key to finding new things.

### 2.2 Train Divergent Thinking

Divergent thinking is a kind of diffusion stage of brain during thinking. "Many solutions to a problem" well explains divergent thinking. Divergent thinking is the major feature of creative thinking. Simply speaking, a problem has numerous solutions, and the more, the better. In such thinking, people will fully express thinking creativity talent. More solutions you work out, stronger divergent thinking you own. We should train divergent thinking frequently and train the awareness of applying divergent thinking. In study and life, pondering over the problems with divergent thinking and training divergent thinking contribute to analyzing problems in an all-round way so as to avoid problem analysis in an one-sided way. Training divergent thinking contributes to potential exploitation and creative thinking promotion.

#### 2.3. Train Intuitive Thinking

Intuitive thinking refers to sudden comprehension, presentiment or prediction of future results. Intuitive thinking is a kind of mental phenomenon and plays a distinctly important role for creative thinking. Intuitive thinking can be cultivated, and it is the key to creative thinking. Intuitive thinking has many manifestations in the learning process, mainly including continuous strange questions, bold conjecture, emergent answers and unusual but wonderful thinking. When these phenomena appear, it is required to exploit and train intuitive thinking through these manifestations, instead of ignoring them. One should be good at developing intuitive thinking and train it in study and work.

#### 2.4 Train Strong Thirst for Knowledge

Both Plato and Aristotle said, the origin of philosophy is human curiosity for existing things. In their opinions, when people feel surprised, strong exploration desire will arise. Hence, it is very important to arouse creativity of things. First of all, there should be strong thirst for knowledge. Human thirst for knowledge is always generated under the need or stimulus. The function of human thirst for knowledge is infinite. Without the stimulus, people have no interest. Without the need, there is no thirst for knowledge. It is required to enhance the thirst for knowledge consciously and think about why in study and life. When others find or solve problems, one should think about the reasons to motivate the thirst for knowledge. The school period is also the period when the thirst for knowledge is the strongest. However, it is easier to develop intelligence and pursue science through strong thirst for knowledge in this period. The thirst for

knowledge will enrich oneself in the exploration process, improve oneself and make one handle problems more scientifically in the exploration process. Human curiosity and thirst for knowledge can be motivated only in the exploration process. Only when one is in the state of solving problems is he willing to accept knowledge and enrich himself and can he be in an aspirant stage. Such study can not just help him gain knowledge and skills, but also help him explore unknown new view and find new knowledge.

## 3. APPROACHES TO TRAIN CREATIVE THINKING

### 3.1 Diversification of Teaching Methods

Students' thinking ability and innovation ability are the main purposes of art teaching. Art is a kind of artistic form and also a difficult and professional discipline. In order to enhance students' comprehensive quality, situational teaching method should be applied in art teaching. Usually, music playing is a common method. It is necessary to combine music and art and apply the situation to motivate students' imagination so as to give play to their creativity. The combination of two different manifestation patterns will bring different effects. Sound can convey emotion, and art can express innovation value of emotional association. Thus, the combination of music and art will be a good teaching method.

### 3.2 Heuristic Education Principle

Teachers should adopt different teaching forms to positively encourage students' thinking development, make them find out their potential in diverse forms of teaching and give full play to their potential. Teachers should not stick to outdated customs and only impart the knowledge in textbooks to students. Art is a special discipline, so students should be cultivated according to their features. Heuristic training is required to break through inertial thinking and generate different ideas and thoughts. In this way, better teaching effect can be obtained. Teachers should motivate students' learning enthusiasm, activate classroom climate, and attract students' attention to classroom teaching, which is the important guarantee for the success of heuristic education.

### 3.3 College Art Teachers Should Enhance Practice

Training students' innovative thinking cannot be accomplished in an action, and it is a progressive process. Teachers need to enrich themselves through improving their quality and practical experience so that they can apply more in knowledge imparting and students training process. Meanwhile, teachers should promote their spirit of innovation, change the teaching content and make students better understand knowledge through practice.

Teachers may improve their practical ability through regular training, let students learn more which cannot be learned from textbooks through practice, enhance students' active thinking ability, pay attention to their all-round and harmonious development, make students discover and innovate in practice so as to give play to students' leading role and make progress in terms of innovation spirit and practical ability.

# 4. GUARANTEE FOR APPROACHES TO TRAIN CREATIVE THINKING

### 4.1 Explicit Educational Objective

Training students' innovation ability is the key of art specialty training in higher education, and it should be regarded as the strategic emphasis. Existing teaching mode should adjust the educational objective in terms of training students' innovation ability. Naturally, obstructions will be encountered. Firstly, extensive publicity should be done among teachers and students. Teachers and students should really realize the importance of training students' innovation ability. Secondly, the education sector should be deeply and guidance students' innovation ability training. Both schools and teachers should cooperate with the education sector and realize the importance of innovation ability.

#### 4.2 Scientific Course System

With regard to course system arrangement, it is required to expand specialty scope, widen students' view and give students large space, without restrictions of students' development. Art specialty is characterized by integration and inter-discipline, and it fuses many disciplines. Hence, the students majoring in art will result in thinking limitation due to the lack of knowledge of other disciplines. Therefore, schools should provide corresponding courses according to students' needs, which contributes to improving skills of art specialty. In art course arrangement, relevant humanities and natural science courses should be included, except professional basic courses. In this way, the students can own favorable cultural quality. This also plays a great role in forming students' aesthetic and innovative thinking. Proficiently mastering professional skills, improving comprehensive quality and owning high innovation ability are beneficial to provide skilled talents for the society and contribute to students' development.

### 4.3 Reasonable Teaching Method

It is required to abandon traditional teaching method and improve students' subjective initiative through diversified teaching contents, which is very important for training innovation consciousness. Heuristic education should be applied to correctly guide students and avoid violation of original intension of consciousness cultivation. Students'

innovation ability should be trained. For students, learning method is very important. Even if the teacher teaches much, it is useless if students cannot absorb the knowledge. For teachers, what they teach is unimportant, but teaching method is very important. Even if the teacher is knowledgeable, it is useless if he cannot teach them to students. Thus, teachers should let students learn with dialectical viewpoint, enlighten their observing ability, give different solutions to complex problems, drum in important problems and guide them think and discuss independently so as to train their thinking ability.

### 4.4 Reasonable Allocation of Teaching Staff

Reasonable allocation of teaching staff and enhancement of teaching link management are very important for students' study. During allocating teachers, teachers' strong points and students' features should be considered. For the students with good academic performance, it is required to enhance their professional knowledge. For the students with strong professional ability, it is required to promote their discipline performance. For the students with good academic performance, it is required to exploit their potential. For the students with poor academic performance, it is required to train them alone. In this way, students can learn from others' strong points to offset their weaknesses, help each other, make progress together and improve their learning ability and independent thinking ability. When the students just enter the school, the most experienced and strictest teachers should be chosen to train students' good learning habits, and make them lay a favorable foundation for future study.

Meanwhile, it is required to strengthen teachers' practical operation ability, train teachers regularly and evaluate them irregularly. Schools should enhance management of teachers and students, require teachers to teach strictly, and require students to abide by teaching disciplines and establish favorable style of study. Long-term strict requirements play a crucial role for students' future development.

## 4.5 Principles of Teaching Students in Accordance of Their Aptitudes

Teachers should test students' ability and specialties, classify them according to the test results and create different learning environments and contents according to the types. Everyone has potential innovation ability.

The innovation ability of some students is not obvious, maybe because it has not been exploited. Teachers should stimulate students' innovation desire through creating new environmental atmosphere. To develop students' potential, it is required to carry out the principle of teaching students in accordance of their aptitudes. There are no inherent talents or inherent idiots. Human potential is infinite, and the key lies in discovery. Therefore, teachers should focus on discovering and training talents. For the students with strong ability, teachers may train them with certain pertinence, guide them in self-study and elective courses and let them participate in extracurricular scientific research.

### **CONCLUSION**

In a word, to cultivate college students' creative thinking, it should be combined with the actual situation of students, through the joint efforts of schools and teachers, reform the curriculum and the target clear, through the understanding of students to help students cultivate their creative ability, active creative thinking. Through the research of this paper, we get more attention to the cultivation of students' creative thinking.

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