

Introductory Lesson-Edutopia

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Edutopia explored inquiry-based learning through one school that has implemented this model into many of its classes. Inquiry-based learning guides the students in running the lessons. The teachers bring an environment of fun, safe, and sometimes messy experiments for the students to explore and ask questions of their own accord. “The teachers begin their lesson with an idea of where they want to end in mind,” but overall, “inquiry-based learning allows the students to be the thinkers” (2015). The classes include Guided Inquiry, where the teacher directs them where to go with their questions. Then, it flows to Student-based Inquiry, where the students can create experiments through their questions and observations.

Here, the students’ teachers guide them on where to go, only at first. The students then have free range to ask questions, fill in their observation forms, and experiment. One of the teachers, Lindsay, put two simple questions on poster paper asking the students, what is the problem, and what are possible solutions? The students then had free range to write questions about the topic the student chose. They also wrote down their observations of the problem and possible solutions to their topic.

The teacher in each class always gives room for the students to think, learn, and achieve making inferences from their observations. Each class had small groups of students to communicate with each other. The students ask questions, make solutions, and write down their observations. The teacher goes around the class to get updates from the groups of students. The teacher asks what questions they have created and what observations they have made. The teacher encourages the students to keep at it or asks the students questions to redirect them where to go or for reassurance.

This is an amazing way to have the students learn through experience. When I was in middle school and high school, I never had inquiry-based learning. It’s very sad that I didn’t

because I have always been fascinated in doing experiments. I'm glad the Lord had brought me back around to experience these experiences that I missed once when I was a kid.

References

George Lucas Educational Foundation. (2015, December 15). *Inquiry-Based Learning: From teacher-guided to student-driven*. Edutopia. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://www.edutopia.org/video/inquiry-based-learning-teacher-guided-student-driven>