

SRE TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

Developing Student-Centred Teaching Methods



Presenter: Dr Maja Milatovic

Image source: <https://bit.ly/2ASzUZy>

Supporting student-centred teaching

- Considering useful strategies
- Teacher-centred and student-centred
- Two-part teaching demonstration and discussion
- Action plan: ideas and implementation



Image source:
<http://www.ecology.com/2014/09/17/learning-nature-benefits-teachers-students/>

Teaching demonstration

- Example used: Term 1: The Life of the Buddha, Week 3: Prince Siddhartha resolving a conflict
- Aimed at Year 5 and 6 and adapted to suit the workshop
- Please note some of following elements as you listen to the demonstrations:
structure, task completion, timing,
discussion, teacher position in the
classroom



Teacher-centred demonstration

Week 3: The Life of the Buddha

Prince Siddhartha resolving a conflict

- Buddhism
- Life of the Buddha
- Conflict
- Conflict resolution
- Harmony and disharmony



Image source: SRE Nan Tien Temple

Tasks

- Read Prince Siddhartha and the Swan story carefully and answer the comprehension questions provided.
- Complete the concept revision task.



Image source: SRE Nan Tien Temple



End of demonstration

Discussion

- What did you think about this demonstration?
- Was it effective in relating information?
- What worked well and what can be improved?
- Did it promote student critical thinking and interest?
- Why / Why not?

Teacher-centred method

Benefits:

- The classroom remains orderly. Students are quiet, and you retain full control of the classroom and its activities
- Because students learn on their own, they learn independence and make their own decisions.
- Because the teacher directs all classroom activities, students are not likely to miss an important topic.

(adapted from The Room 241 Team (2012): Which is Best: Teacher-Centered or Student-Centered Education? Concordia University Portland)

Teacher-centred method

Disadvantages

- When students work alone, they do not learn collaboration, and their communication skills may suffer.
- Teacher-centred instruction can be dull if the teacher mostly talks - students may stop paying attention, and miss important facts.
- There is no space for students to express themselves, ask questions, and direct their own learning.

(adapted from The Room 241 Team (2012): Which is Best: Teacher-Centered or Student-Centered Education? Concordia University Portland)



Student-centred demonstration



INTERPERSONAL HARMONY



Conflict resolution depends on the **decisions** we make
and the **strategies** we use.

Reading comprehension: Prince Siddhartha and the Swan



Image source: SRE Nan Tien Temple

Group work

- Read the conflict resolution scenarios
- Work in groups to discuss the scenarios and how you would handle them to resolve the situation
- Share your responses

Homework: Concept revision



Image source:
<https://now.tufts.edu/articles/spotlight-research-and-collaboration>



End of demonstration

Discussion

- What did you think about this demonstration?
- Was it effective in relating information?
- What worked well and what can be improved?
- Did it promote student critical thinking and interest?
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Student-centred method

Benefits:

- Students learn important communicative and collaborative skills through group work.
- Students learn to direct their own learning, ask questions, and complete tasks independently.
- Students are more interested in learning activities when they can interact with one another and participate actively (increase in student engagement and motivation)

(adapted from The Room 241 Team (2012): Which is Best: Teacher-Centered or Student-Centered Education? Concordia University Portland)

Student-centred method

Disadvantages

- Because of the emphasis on discussion and group work, classrooms may often be noisy or chaotic (difficult to manage)
- Difficulty managing all activities at once when students are working on different stages of the same project.
- Because of the collaborative and self-directed learning, some students may miss important facts.
- Some students prefer to work alone, so group work can become problematic.

(adapted from The Room 241 Team (2012): Which is Best: Teacher-Centered or Student-Centered Education? Concordia University Portland)

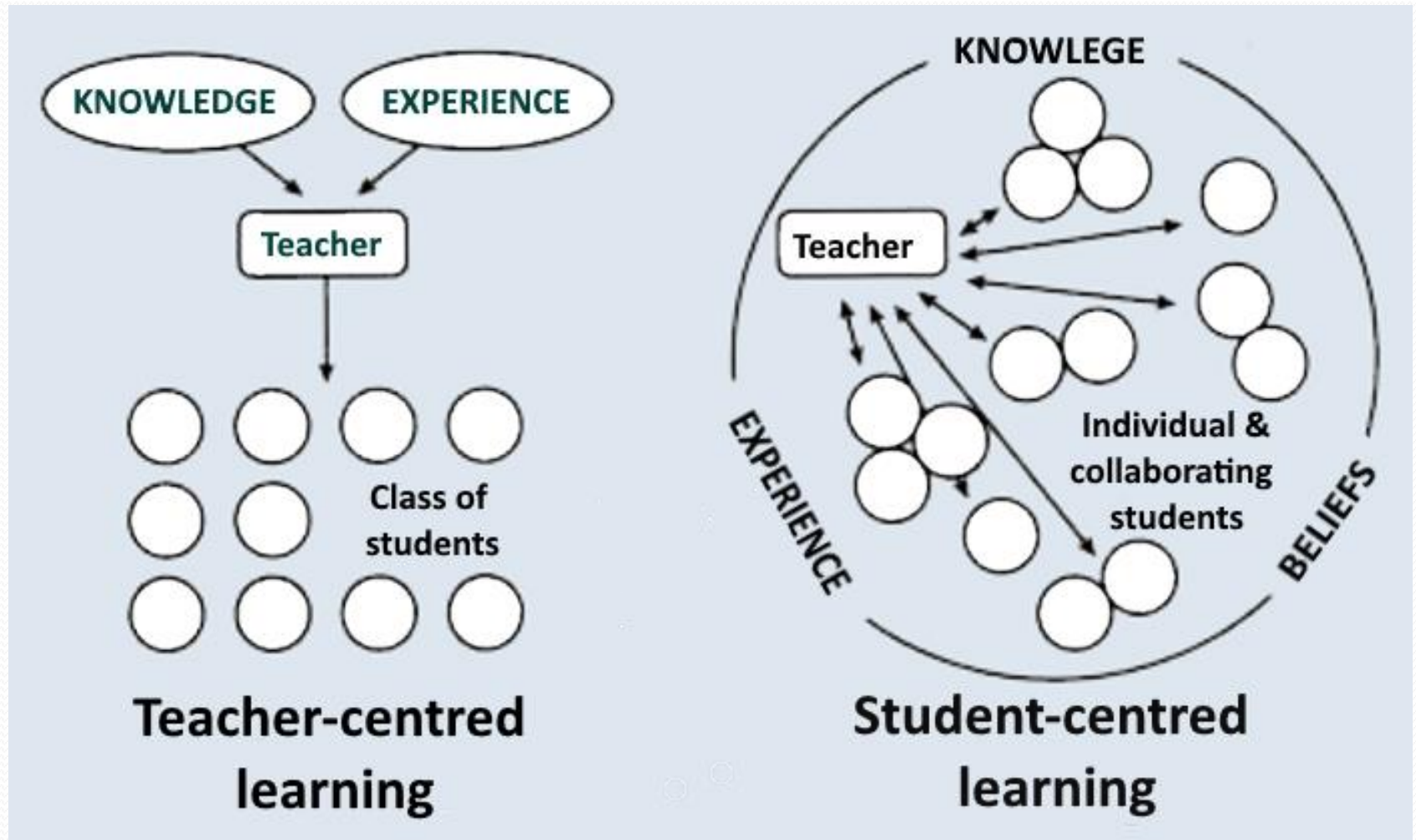


Image source:
<https://lo.unisa.edu.au/mod/book/view.php?id=610988&chapterid=102030>

Group activity

- Please sit in groups with colleagues who teach in the same school
- Think about your teaching practice and discuss it with your groups
- What do you find most challenging? What works well?
- Note down some **student-centred strategies** which you use or can implement in your teaching and share your responses

Tips: How to create a student-centred classroom?



Image source:
<https://elearnmagazine.com/student-centered-learning-2/>

Tips: How to create a student-centred classroom?

1. Adjust classroom space
2. Encourage discussion
3. Be 'present' in the classroom
(Lang: 'pedagogy of presence')
4. Focus on the student
5. Classroom management
6. Lessons as a collaborative journey
7. Teacher body language
8. Adaptability

References and further reading

- Buddha Dharma Education Association and BuddhaNet: Buddhist Studies for primary and secondary students
<http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhism/index.htm>
- Curtin Learning and Teaching: Student-Centred Learning.
https://clt.curtin.edu.au/teaching_learning_practice/student_centred/student_centred.cfm
- Garrett, Tracey. Student-Centered and Teacher-Centered Classroom Management: A Case Study of Three Elementary Teachers. Journal of Classroom Interaction. Vol 43.1.34-47. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ829018.pdf>

- Lang, James M. (2015). Waiting for Us to Notice Them. The Chronicle of Higher Education.
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Waiting-for-Us-to-Notice-Them/151255>
- The Room 241 Team (2012): Which is Best: Teacher-Centered or Student-Centered Education? *Concordia University Portland* <https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/classroom-resources/which-is-best-teacher-centered-or-student-centered-education/>
- University of South Australia: How Students Learn, Student-Centred Learning
<https://lo.unisa.edu.au/mod/book/view.php?id=610988&chapterid=102030>



Thank you!