



Apr 16th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Creative Teaching Strategies and Student Learning

Emma Moris
Illinois Wesleyan University

Leah Nillas, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Moris, Emma and Nillas, Faculty Advisor, Leah, "Creative Teaching Strategies and Student Learning" (2016). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 4.
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2016/ESposters2/4>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Creative Teaching Strategies and Student Learning

Emma Moris and Leah Nillas*

Educational Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University

Research Question

How do creative teaching strategies affect student learning?

Methodology

- **Keyword Search:** Creative teaching, creativity in the classroom, creative teaching strategies, exploring creativity in the classroom
- **Literature Analysis:** List theme techniques used (Ryan & Bernard, 2003)

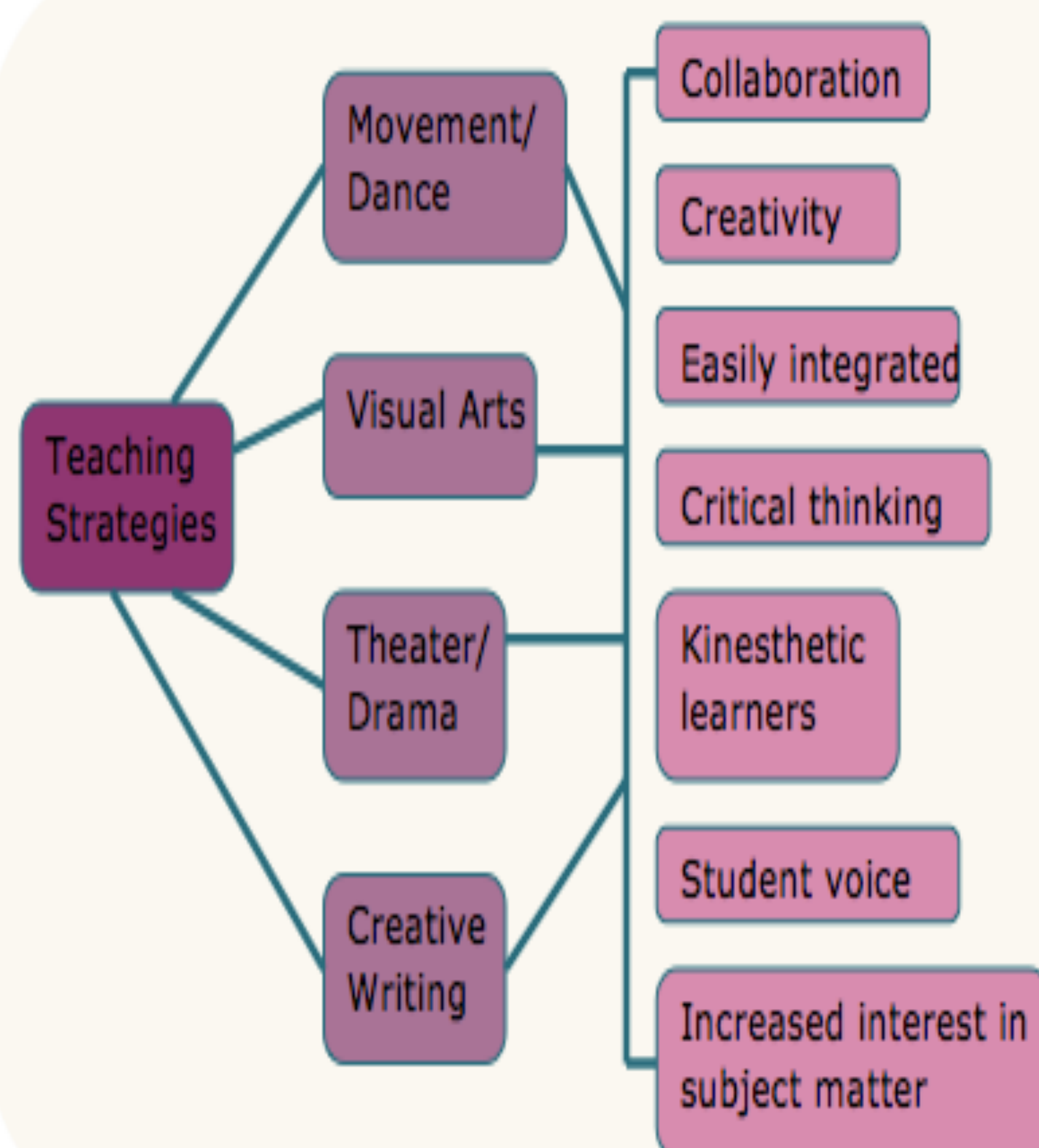


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Literature Review

Movement/Dance:

- Complementing the core curriculum with dance allows students to develop nonverbal communication skills (Koff, 2000).
- Incorporating movement engages students in the thinking process kinesthetically (Skoning, 2008).
- Utilizing movement in a meaningful way develops creativity, communication, and critical thinking in students (Becker, 2013).

Visual Arts:

- The meaningful integration of visual arts and sustained creativity have positive impacts on student 's self-efficacy (Catterall & Pepler, 2007).
- Creativity is not developed naturally. Teachers must create an environment that supports its development. (Pavlou, 2013).
- Not only do visual arts connect to the development of literacy but the links between art and science are natural and often overlooked (Andrzejczk, Poldberg, & Trainin, 2013).

Theater/Drama:

- Creative drama is a teaching tool that promotes student collaboration and understanding not memorization (Eick, Hendrix, & Shannon, 2012).
- Using theater arts allows students to take ownership of their learning (inoa, Tabone, & Weltsek, 2014).
- Subjects like math and science are often dry and students lack interest. The creativity of drama contrasts this view (Ng & Nicholas, 2008).
- The performance of drama has the ability to develop students' reading fluency (Young, 2014).

Creative Writing:

- Develop a space for writing where students are in control (Menmuir, 2011).
- Children gain independence and autonomy when allowed to choose their writing topics (Ryan, 2014).
- Creative writing develops students imagination, and increases confidence and writing ability (Akkaya, 2010).

Results

(See Figure 1)

- Amongst various strategies, research showed consistent benefits in student learning and increased peer collaboration.
- Class environments that encourage creativity are essential.
- Teaching strategies can be easily and widely integrated.
- Strategies benefit all types of learners, primarily kinesthetic.
- Classroom environments with high emphasis on student voice increased interests in subject areas.

Conclusion

- Teachers must push themselves to continue to come up with creative ways to meet standards while meeting the needs of all students.
- As teachers integrate creative teaching strategies into daily curriculum, students will be more prone to exploring and expressing their own creativity.