



Elements

OF PEDAGOGY

A Promethean guide

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Research and evidence-based practice now strongly indicates that students' learning can be accelerated when using quality digital devices effectively.



Digital pedagogy refers to the art and science of teaching when using technology to support student learning.

Digital pedagogy can be conceptualised through many lenses, but the following are some of the most relevant when using technology in the classroom. These can be defined as the 'Elements of Pedagogy'.

The Elements of Pedagogy



Learning Spaces

A Learning Space is any environment in which learning can take place. In the modern classrooms of today, there are three that are most common:

- Social. Learning in the classroom. This can be augmented by tech devices such as ActivPanels and one-on-one tools.
- Remote. In real time, a teacher interacts with students via video platforms such as Zoom.
- Virtual. Think of your avatar interacting with other avatars in a computer game or an online conference space.



Technology Frameworks

These provide you with a 'big picture' that clarifies why and how you are using tech devices. Here are three frameworks that can help with your own big picture:

- The TPACK model maintains that there are three forms of knowledge necessary for successful tech implementation (Technological; Pedagogical; and Content).
- The RAT model is the first of two taxonomies. A taxonomy is a framework that moves from lower to higher forms of implementation (think: Bloom's taxonomy). RAT stands for Replacement, Amplification, Transformation.
- The second taxonomy is called SAMR, which refers to Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition.



Intellectual Rigour

Determine how deeply you challenge thinking.

The magic of an ActivPanel will be diminished or enhanced by the degree of thinking that students do when it is in operation. When you explore learning content on the screen, what are you doing to encourage a depth of understanding? Is the knowledge rich and deep, or just shallow and insubstantial? The questions that are explored during a lesson will be the clearest indication of intellectual rigour. What is the quality of the questions you ask? And even more importantly: What is the quality of the questions they ask?



Student Engagement

This is at the very heart of the classroom. It means that you encourage children to sustain their learning commitment through strong involvement.

ActivPanels offer high impact visual provocations, which is an excellent start with student engagement levels. Even more powerful is the way that every child can be encouraged to produce quality work. One example? To consistently share a student's work with the class by screensharing from your own device, held over the student's work. The resulting discussion can become the core of continuous improvement for all.



Emotional Connection

This will change a child's life for the better when they discover that learning can be engaging and exciting.

Too often, adults conjecture that all technology is heartless and devoid of emotion. While robots might be (for now), tech tools can still generate passion and purpose. Imagine using an ActivPanel to explore real-life class learning projects. One example? Using a Design Thinking process to produce 3-D printed cutlery for arthritis sufferers.

What can you do with these five Elements of Pedagogy?

Begin by determining how to create the best quality learning spaces.

As part of this, become more conversant with well-established frameworks. From there, implement powerful everyday practice: engage students in their learning; boost the quality of their thinking; and generate inspiring emotional connections.

References and further reading:

TPACK Framework

<https://educationaltechnology.net/technological-pedagogical-content-knowledge-tpack-framework/>

RAT Framework

<https://techedges.org/r-a-t-model/>

SAMR Model

<https://www.schoolology.com/blog/samr-model-practical-guide-edtech-integration>

Design Thinking

<https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/what-is-design-thinking-and-why-is-it-so-popular>

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