

Building an Inquiry Based Learning Environment

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About Ihsan Education



Ihsan Education

Our Vision:

Ihsan Education (™) inspires academic, moral and spiritual excellence to empower students to thrive and contribute to the betterment of humanity in a diverse, complex, and global context.

Our Philosophy:

Ihsan Education employs a moral or values based framework that cultivates the growth of *Ihsan* or beautiful morals which enable students to understand the essence of their faith and how to embody it in a diverse, pluralistic, complex society. The outcome is students who are well rooted in the understanding of their faith and spiritual traditions yet open-minded, compassionate, generous, and collaborative with people of all faiths and backgrounds, in order to be a catalyst for positive change and peace in our world.

Our Services:

Educator Training (Online and In-Person), Ihsan Educator Certificate Program (Online Starting Oct. 2016), Consulting and Coaching, Curriculum Development, School Certification, Student Programs

Ihsan Edu Conference and Graduation



Ihsan Education

INSPIRING ACADEMIC AND
MORAL EXCELLENCE
FOR A GLOBAL CONTEXT.

SAVE THE DATE: SUN MAY 7, 2017 1st Annual Ihsan Education Conference

Best Western Lamplighter Inn,
London Ontario, 5-9pm

- Speakers on Excellence in Education
- Graduation and Awards Ceremony, Showcase of Best Practices by Teachers in Ihsan Certificate Program
- Intro to NEW Unique & Dynamic Islamic Studies Curriculum
- Children's Books by Ihsan Education in Arabic & English for Sale
- Opportunity to provide feedback to teachers

Open to Students (12+), Educators, Parents and Community Members. \$20/person; \$10/student; \$125/Table of 8

More Details to Come.

www.IhsanEdu.com:

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Feedback from Last Assignment?

Remember we wanted to differentiate process, content, product and remember to at least have activities catering to auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learners.

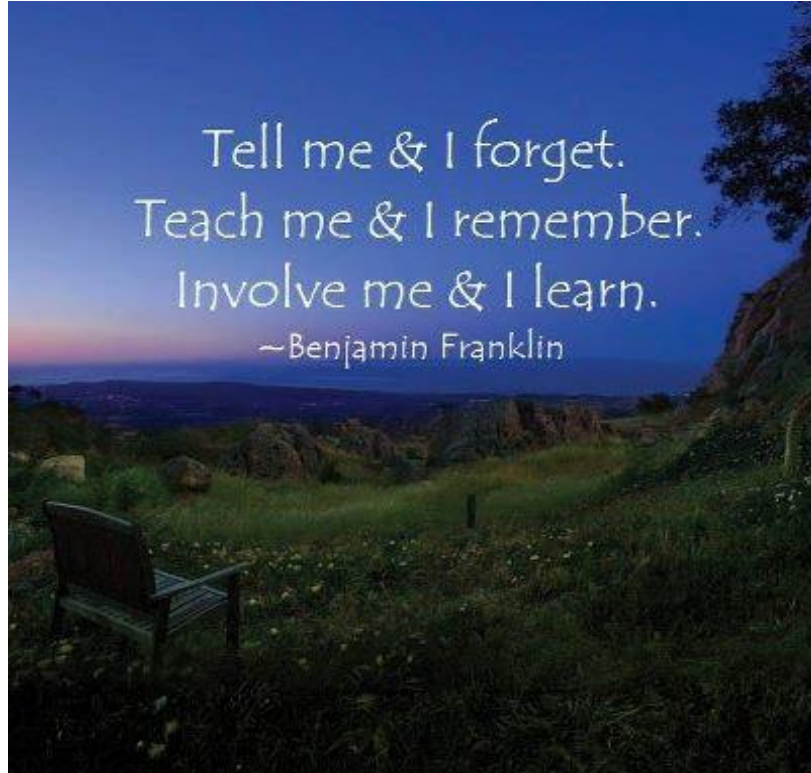
Sample:

The lesson is Arabic alphabet and the ways are as follows.

- 1) A video clip or movie the students can enjoy and learn from.
- 2) A colouring sheet with fun pictures that start with the introduced letter.
- 3) Giving Play-dough with different colours to the students, so that they could make their own letters in a creative way.

The impact was a huge positive one, and the students were so happy and relaxed to a point where they didn't want the Arabic teacher to leave the class, and they were asking "are you coming again today?" Even the students who used to be so shy and kind of solitary, were interacting with their friends and expressing their feelings, showing how much they enjoyed their time during the Arabic class, and looked forward to the next lesson.

Student Involvement is Key to Inquiry



Inquiry Based Learning

- The approach we encourage would include a process that:
 - Empowers students to be involved in their learning
 - Invites students to exercise inquiry and critical thinking skills
 - Results in building new understandings and ultimately taking positive action.

In turn, the goal is to cultivate students who are **inquirers** and **life-long learners**, and who can reap benefits of inquiry based learning which include becoming more **creative, more positive, and more independent**

Inquiry Starts with Knowing Your Students

- Use a similar tool with them at the beginning of the year
- Review the 26 questions your students should answer handout and select the most important ones or distribute them so students answer them over a few weeks
- **Jigsaw it -Choice- Personalize - Use them as Journal or Blog Prompts-
Team-Building Games-Wing It**

26 Questions Every Student Should Be Able To Answer

1. What do I need to know about you?
2. What do you need from me most?
3. What does success in the classroom mean to you?
4. What do you know about how people learn?
5. What's the most creative thing you've ever done?
6. How can technology be used for learning?
7. What does it mean to understand something?
8. What's the most recent complex problem you've solved?
9. How do you respond to expectations?
10. What is your proudest moment?
11. What do you want to learn about?
12. Are you a picky reader? What are your strengths as a reader?
13. What is your personal philosophy?
14. When do you write best?
15. What's worth understanding deeply?
16. What are your habits as a thinker?
17. What's most important to you in life?
18. What is the relationship between learning, and #17?
19. Where does your inner drive come from?
20. Who are your heroes or role models?
21. Why study (insert your content area here)?
22. What are you good at that nobody knows?
23. What do teachers sometimes misunderstand about you as a learner?
24. What does it mean to study?
25. How do you respond to complex texts or digital media?
26. If I get out of your way this year, what will you be able to do?

Student Centered Approach

Use what you've learned about your students appropriately to draw Islamic meanings and lessons and foster their love for the Arabic language.

Identify student hobbies and pastimes and incorporate them into lessons effectively through deriving of prophetic wisdoms, Quranic verses, stories, writing, conversation, and drama in Arabic.

Tie Islamic Education and Arabic together with what is urgent to students at the time to connect to their lived experiences.

Find positive means to help students understand Islamic values in light of negative influences and the importance of the Arabic language

Strategy 1: Jar and Rocks



Strategy 2: See-Think-Wonder

- 1) What do you see?
- 2) What do you think is happening?
- 3) What does it make you wonder?

Images can include a painting, a photo, an artifact, a video clip, an excerpt of text, a chart, or a found object.



Strategy 3: K-W-H-L Chart

<p>What I <u>Know</u> ماذا <u>أعرف</u></p>	<p>What I <u>want</u> to Know ماذا <u>أريد</u> أن أعرف</p>	<p><u>How</u> will I find out what I want to Know كيف سأكتشف ماذا أريد أن أتعلم</p>	<p>What I have <u>learned</u>? ماذا <u>تعلمت</u></p>

Inquiry can lead to Creativity and Innovation

- Experts, researchers, and successful leaders in education, business as well as science and technology have summarized the skills that brought them the most success and which they look for in the employees they wish to hire.
- In summary innovation skills are:
 - i) Curiosity - ask questions and understand more deeply
 - ii) Collaboration - listening to and learning
 - iii) Associative or integrative thinking – ability to make connections
 - iv) Action and experimentation
- Innovation can be nurtured, taught, and mentored

What is Inquiry based learning?

Inquiry implies involvement that leads to understanding. It is a process where students are:

- Involved in their learning (Using 5 senses)
- Formulate Questions
- Investigate widely
- Build new understandings, meanings and knowledge,
- Knowledge may be used to answer a question, to develop a solution or to support a position or point of view
- Knowledge is usually presented to others and may result in some sort of action.

Steps of Inquiry Based Learning

<https://www.youtube.com/shared?ci=RQ6PaWJXW2o>

- 1) Ask تساءل
- 2) Investigate ابحث
- 3) Create إصنع
- 4) Discuss ناقش
- 5) Reflect تأمل

Building a Culture

Requirements for Building a Culture of Inquiry



Implications for Inquiry Learning in Classroom

Teachers promote diligent research, deep thinking, and civil discussion prior to formulating opinions and convictions

Teachers promote a culture which welcomes questions, commits to knowing realities and considers the consequences.

Seeking answers therefore requires direction and prioritization so a qualified educator to guide and provide correct answers; otherwise the path of inquiry can lead to error and misguidance”

For inquiry to be effective, It requires that teachers see themselves as learners and researchers

Inquiry Involves Learning in:

Tackling real-world questions, issues and controversies;

developing questioning, research and communication skills;

solving problems or creating solutions;

collaborating within and beyond the classroom;

developing deep understanding of content knowledge;

participating in the public creation and improvement of ideas and knowledge

Inquiry Based Approaches

Inquiry is an umbrella term that covers a number of other approaches to teaching and learning. Teaching practices that utilize a disposition of inquiry learning include:

- problem-based learning: learning that starts with a case-study
- project-based learning: students create a project or presentation as a demonstration of their understanding
- design-based learning: learning through the working design of a solution to a complex problem

Inquiry vs. Coverage Based Classroom

Inquiry	'Traditional' or Coverage Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student voice and choice• Questions and concepts• Collaborative work• Strategic thinking• Authentic investigations• Student responsibility• Student as knowledge creator• Interaction and talk• Teacher as model and coach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher selection and direction• Assigned topics and isolated facts• Solitary work• Memorization• As if/surrogate learning• Student compliance• Student as information receiver• Quiet and listening• Teacher as expert and presenter

Inquiry vs. Coverage Based Classroom

Inquiry	'Traditional' or Coverage Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross-disciplinary studies• Multiple resources• Multimodal learning• Engaging in a discipline• Real purpose and audience• Caring and taking action• Performance and self-assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One subject at a time• Reliance on a textbook• Verbal sources only• Hearing about a discipline• Extrinsic motivators• Forgetting and moving to next unit• Filling in bubbles and blanks

Strategy 4: Centers

Refer back to **MODULE 3: Increasing Student Engagement through Using Cooperative Learning Strategies.**



Strategy 5: Gallery Walk

<http://www.theteachertoolkit.com/index.php/tool/gallery-walk>



Strategy 6: Creative Demo of Understanding Quran

- Choose a surah that you teach and have students complete the following activity to show their understanding of what they have learned from the surah.

KG-3: Quran as Guidance Tree : Cut out shape of a tree and leaves and on leaves write one or two important concepts learned from the surah or draw on the tree pictures of what you understand from the surah

Grade 4-5: Quran as Guidance Collage: Look for magazine pictures or pictures online that represent different types of guidance that the Qur'an gives us. For example, for charity you could show that with an image of open or outstretched hands. Paste these images onto poster paper and also have the words of the different types of guidance written in different lettering on another color paper and then paste them to the poster.

Grade 6-10: Quran as Guidance Booklet: Same as collage and ask for each visual representation of the surah, a paragraph is written explaining their understanding and how the surah applies in their life

Assignment

Describe a lesson where you implemented the inquiry based learning steps and its impact on students. You may use any of the strategies from this module.

Due Date: April 5, 2017

Submission Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/SXqgzGUn1ezLNp022>