

Review Article

The Harkness Method of Teaching

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Academics and educators have turned their attention to the idea of creativity and innovation at all international and Arab educational conferences. The challenge today lies in how to implement these ideas and recommendations and put them into practice, how to adapt the curricula to reflect the results of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and how to build the learning process around comprehensive and integrated standards and goals with the aim of reaching a modern educational curriculum that stimulates creativity and innovation in schools and encourages critical thinking among students.

That is why we have an urgent need to apply new educational strategies based on teaching creativity within school curricula. These strategies can make the classroom a place to inspire ideas and stimulate creative and critical thinking. The Harkness method of teaching, is a method of learning that can transform the classroom into a large workshop for the creativity industry. It was developed in the 1930s at Phillips Exeter Academy in Boston, USA, by philanthropist Edward S. Harkness, who believed that students should be given the opportunity to learn through discussion and collaboration. This teaching method promotes student-led

discussion and questioning. Students converse in a seminar-style setting while seated around an oval table. Harkness said that 'what I have in mind is [a classroom] where [students] could sit around a table with a teacher who would talk with them and instruct them by a sort of tutorial or conference method, where [each student] would feel encouraged to speak up. This would be a real revolution in methods.'

This method aims to transform the classroom into an open conference for interaction instead of the traditional one-way seating. The students sit around the round table, which encourages them to take responsibility and share their opinions instead of the class following the linear direction headed by the teacher.

The Harkness method does not depend on a particular curriculum or ideology, but rather on an important piece of furniture, a large oval table that is the centrepiece of any classroom. Students sit with their classmates and the teacher around the table. Individual opinions are formed, confirmed, rejected and revised. The teacher's main responsibility is to organize the discussion process. The Harkness table is a key element of the method and encourages equality and collaboration among students. It promotes critical thinking, active listening, and effective communication skills.

The basic tenets of Harkness education are: the facilitator role of the teacher and the collaborative learning among students who take ownership of the topics under discussion. Harkness puts the student at the centre of the learning process and promotes peer learning. Under the direction of the teacher, the instruction focuses on the concepts that the students have brought up; what happens in the class depends on what the students have done before the class begins. As a result, Harkness comes

with an obligation: the student must be prepared, which entails having done the necessary reading, preparation, and thinking.

The following description, for the most part, reflects how the teacher conducts his Harkness classes. When assigning the reading, the teacher strives to provide clear and comprehensive questions that the students should concentrate on while they read. They are instructed to make notes in the margins on these clear topics and questions, and occasionally to write prepared notes on separate paper. The teacher will give students one or more of the following roles during class: moderator, participant, observer, and notetaker. Moreover, the teacher will let the students know the day before that they'll be moderating the Harkness the next day. He usually does this when he anticipates a challenging discussion topic and wants the moderator to be fully prepared.

The moderator's role is to set an intellectually engaged and exciting atmosphere by introducing topics, and managing the conversation's flow. The instructor leaves it up to the moderator to decide whether he wants students to raise their hands or just speak as they wish. The participant is the student. The role of students in the Harkness method is evident in several matters, including the attempt to deviate from traditional thinking patterns and the search for innovative solutions to the questions of teachers and their colleagues. The observer's role is to take notes and draw a Harkness diagram to reflect the conversation's balance. The notetaker's role is to record discussion notes in the shared class journal regarding facts and concepts that might be relevant for future test.

Most of the teachers consider that innovation is limited to a new and unique idea. But in fact, the teacher must make students' ideas, answers, and products of great value and a kind of innovation or invention, as well as he must encourage them to criticize for development or

improvement. Students are in constant need of stimulation and emotional support that develops the spirit of creative thinking and self-confidence.

One of the key benefits of Harkness method is that it allows students to take ownership of their learning. Instead of being passive recipients of information, students are encouraged to actively engage with the material, ask questions, and share their own insights and observations. This can help to foster a deeper understanding of the subject matter, as well as a greater sense of confidence and independence among students. Additionally, Harkness method can be a valuable tool for developing critical thinking skills, as students learn to evaluate and analyse information from a variety of perspectives. Overall, Harkness method is an exciting and effective teaching method that can help students to become more engaged and active learners.

The Harkness method develops respect for student's opinion and appreciation for his/her feelings, even if the opinions differ from those of their colleagues. It enables students to face situations without fear or hesitation. Furthermore, it helps students gather as much information as possible on a topic through a variety of opinions and suggestions. The Harkness method encourages cooperation among students and consolidating good relations between them by giving an opportunity to interact positively with each other in order to accomplish a specific task. It also plays an important role in increasing students' ability to be creative and innovative and not adhere to traditional patterns and routines that may cause them to feel bored and distressed.

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مقال مراجعة موضوع

طريقة هاركنس في التدريس

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الملخص:

تتناول هذه المقالة اسلوباً فريداً من طرائق التدريس المعاصرة، وهو اسلوب هاركنس للتدريس، حيث يمكن للطلاب التحدث ومشاركة أفكارهم وآرائهم فيما بينهم. يجلس الطلاب في دائرة كبيرة حول طاولة مع معلمهم الذي يساعدهم على التعلم وطرح الأسئلة. وبهذه الطريقة، يصبح الطلاب جزءاً من تعلمهم حيث يمكنهم مناقشة ما يعرفونه مع بعضهم البعض. اسلوب هاركنس طريقة ممتعة للتعلم، تساعد الطلاب على الشعور بالذكاء والاستقلالية.