A Shift to Inquiry-Based Instruction

Problem of Practice

Inquiry-based learning is a practice that supports active participation and critical thinking in the classroom. While many believe that inquiry-based instruction is a beneficial teaching strategy as it creates increased engagement, understanding, and deeper thinking, it is not often implemented.

Key Facts

Research shows a connection between inquiry-based learning and increased engagement, student satisfaction, higher-order thinking, and problem-solving skills. The strategic implantation of cooperative learning groups, student dialog, and intentional learning experiences are effective ways to bring inquiry into the daily classroom culture.

Vision for Change

This change plan aims to begin with gradual shifts to more inquiry-based learning strategies within my classroom that align with my organization's upcoming math curriculum change. Over time, I would bring inquiry into all content areas and develop strategies to easily implement inquiry-based learning.

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Framework of Change Plan

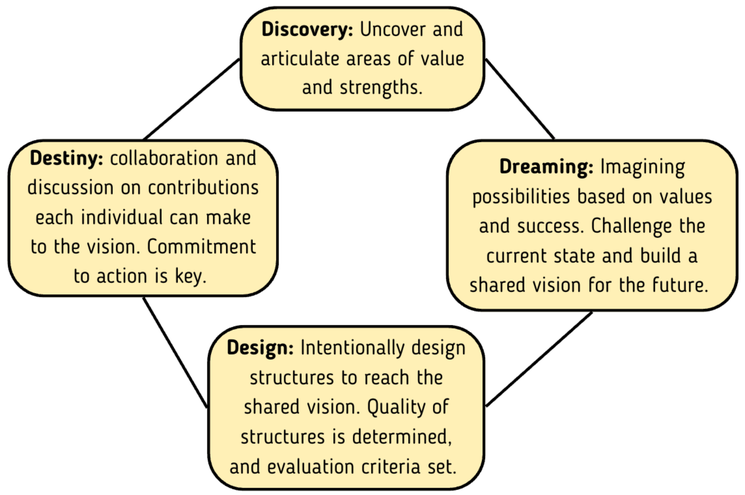

Figure 1. *A model of the four essential components of appreciative inquiry Source. Adapted from Cooperrider and Whitney (2007, p. 77).* (Evans et al., 2012)

The participatory leadership style and the Appreciative Inquiry model (AI) will frame and effectively support the implementation of inquiry-based instruction in the classroom. The (AI) model is guided by five principles of human systems and a four-stage approach to change. (Evans et al., 2012)

Five Principles of Human Systems (Evans et al., 2012)

The Constructionist Principle: questions asked by members directly relate to how an organization develops
The Principle of Simultaneity: highlights the connection between inquiry and change.
The Poetic Principle: organization's strengths guide the change
The Anticipatory Principle: emphasizes the need for a strong vision that all members of the organization support
The Positive Principle: Change should bring a positive outcome for the organization

Change Theory:

Using the Appreciate Inquiry model (AI) to guide my change, this strengths-based approach is designed to foster positive organizational development and is guided by four stages:

Discovery: I will plan and assess various aspects of my organization's curriculum, and the instructional strategies observed in different classrooms.
Dream: I will brainstorm various ways to integrate the inquiry-based strategies and research resources that could support my changes.
Design: I will outline the areas where I can improve our current math curriculum, emphasizing attainable ideas and resources.
Destiny: I will share my findings with stakeholders and implement these strategies in my classroom. I will also assess changes and plan for improvement and adjustment.

Evaluation of the Change Plan:

To evaluate the change, I will systematically monitor the success of implementation through:

- Observational data: listening to students' dialog as they engage in mathematical discussions and collaborate
- Checks for understanding: informal questions, student-led explanations, exit tickets
- Student work samples
- Student satisfaction surveys: conducted monthly
- Reflection: thinking about changes made, and planning for adjustments and future changes

Next Steps

- Integration of inquiry-based lessons into upcoming new math curriculum adoption
- Beginning stages of planning shift in E/LA, social studies, and other content areas
- Continue to refine and expand inquiry in the classroom, developing resources to share with other teachers