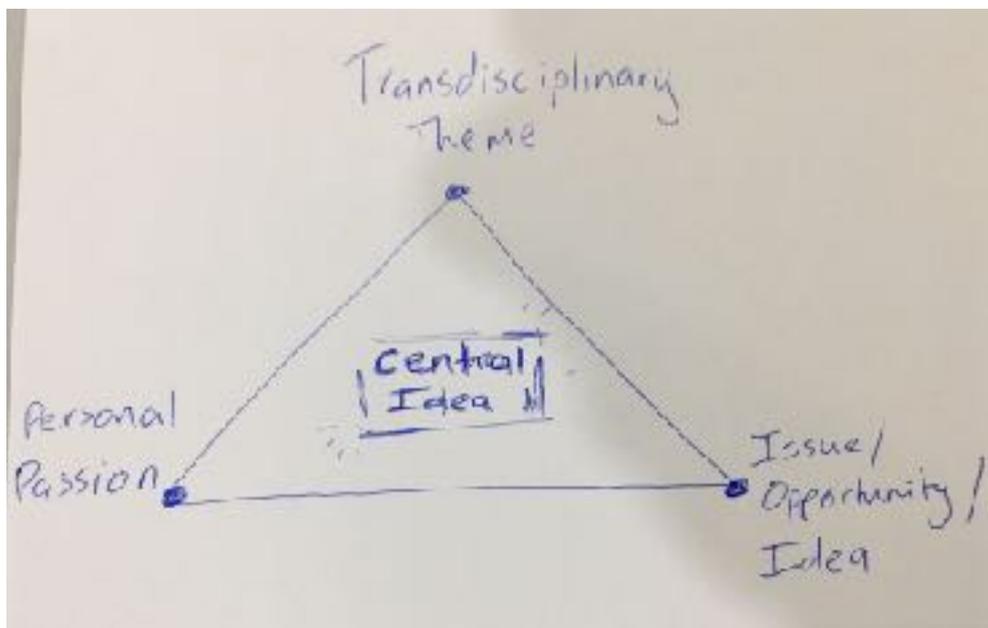


Issue / Opportunity / Idea Generation Based on the Transdisciplinary Theme

Context

New idea generation is difficult without immersions and prompts and considered learning experiences. Students will typically stick to “Known Knowns”, that is, ideas within the realm of their current understanding. This is fine, it is to be expected. Adults do the same. But if we want to students to “go deep” and generate new, creative ideas and lines of inquiry - i.e., to explore “Unknown Unknowns”, we need to help them unlock ideas, connect ideas, and be open to new thinking. This will lead them to central ideas which are unique, interesting, and chunky enough to explore in detail.

Triangulating the transdisciplinary theme, issues and opportunities surrounding it, and their passions will lead us closer to great central ideas.



Students have already explored their passions.

They now need to unpack the transdisciplinary theme in a way which enables creative ideas, issues, and opportunities to emerge.

Here's a possible way.

PART ONE: Sharing the Planet World Cafe

Students will explore **Provocative Statements** in a Sharing the Planet World Cafe format.

*Explain to students: really think about the statements, and talk with the other people at the table, write down your questions, comments, drawings, anything you want. Use your imagination! Be creative!

*Students spend 5 minutes at each table, then rotate. They cannot stay with the same people the whole time, but must choose tables with new people in it each time, where practical.

At no point in history have we been able to share as much information between people as we do now.

Collaboration is hard. Why?

Do we share the planet with the future?

Our cities are not designed very well for sharing

People share ideas without ever talking.

We're going to run out of oil / coal / etc. eventually. What then?

There are too many people to feed in the world. What happens when we demand outstrips supply?

Bartering good and services works better than buying and selling them.

Everyone should get paid the same.

Do we share the planet with non-living things?

People can be too embarrassed to share their creative works.

War can be good sometimes.

Animals don't share anything, they are not like us humans.

It's unethical to keep pets. It's unethical to have zoos.

Does technology make it easier or harder to share the planet?

Sharing OTHER planets

The Hunger Games might be our future. Good or bad? How could we avoid it?

Online communities operate exactly the same way as offline communities.

Transition:

Quiet percolation time. Write a micro-post on your Blogfolio. What does Sharing the Planet mean to you? Tag with one Learner Profile you have displayed thus far, and categorise under "Exhibition"

PART TWO: 100 ideas in 10 minutes

On large sheets of paper, students will write down 100 ideas, thoughts, questions, wonderings, issues, opportunities surrounding the transdisciplinary theme.

There is no talking, only thinking and recording.

Say: if you get stuck for things, just keep thinking.... think of some silly ideas, or really complex ideas, or really easy ideas. There are no bad ideas, just empty your brain out onto the paper.

Spread out, get ready, no talking, GO!

*Have a large pre-made example to show them

*Sinnerman by Nina Simone is a good piece of 10 minute music to play

*Teacher role: walk around thinking out loud, pretending you are generating ideas and surprising yourself with unique lines of inquiry. OR, do it yourself, so that you can share later.

Transition:

Take a 5 minute break, go and get a drink of water, go the bathroom, go for a walk and talk with a friend.

PART THREE: Filtering

A) Safebet, Sweetheart, Moonshot

Look back at your ideas.

1. Circle the "safe" idea. Something which you could inquire into which would be quite easy.

2. Put a heart around another idea that you LOVE. It's your sweetheart idea, the one you can't stop thinking about.

3. Put a rocket around your Moonshot idea. An idea that's outrageous, crazily creative, one which would take you to the stars.

B) Silent Gallery

Walk around and view the ideas of others.

ACTUALLY read their ideas, engage with them, don't skim.

Star or tick the ideas you find interesting, that you love too.

C) Magpie Time

You have five more minutes with your ideas. Keep adding to your sheet of paper.

This is idea bonus time. Stealing ideas here is not bad, it's a good thing! If you've seen someone else's idea that really rung your bell, write it down.

Conclusion:

Keep your ideas, they are precious. We'll revisit them on Thursday. In the meantime, keep thinking about them and add to your brainstorm over the next few days.

Simple reflection on your Blogfolio:

What did we do today?
How are you feeling?
Tag + categorise.