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PDI Studio V

Assignment 4

My partner (Adam) and I were assigned to the sixth grade class. Because they have already been exposed to PDI Students before, we had a few worries about how engaged they would be, but the reality of the situation was that we didn’t have to worry at all. The students listened to us, and made an effort to get to know who we were, and what we were doing.

The experiment we decided to do had to do with drawing. We took around 50 sheets of blank white paper and drew lines on them, ranging from a simple one line curve, to multiple sweeping curves. We then told the students to draw whatever they wanted or came to mind. We gave them suggestions to think hard about things that they enjoyed, like their favorite sports, video games, artists, and music.

Both groups of students that we had were initially confused by the assignment. My thinking on this is that they aren’t usually given too much time to really think about themselves and who they are as people.

After the students got a little push and got started, they kept going and asking for more sheets of paper. However, the troubling part was that they didn’t draw anything meaningful to them, and only drew the most obvious thing that came to mind. There was one student that only drew faces. However, it might be interesting to see if faces indeed had something to do with their personal life. It would be similarly interesting to see if the students that had drawn roads on their sheets of paper had had experiences with roads.

Once the students were cut from their ‘source’ of paper materials, they actually started to talk a lot more. Here is the list of things that I wrote that they were interested in:

* Manga/Anime (Naruto)
* Videogames (Wii, Mario, Little Big Planet)
* Internet Memes (Trollface)
* Cartoons (Adventure Time)
* Photography
* Liking to make things

They also started to draw a lot more images on the sheets of paper that they had already gotten. The images that time were a lot more meaningful to them, and reflected their interests.

I found it interesting that they liked many of the same things that I like. I’ll admit that my tastes are a bit childish, so that may be the reason. However, I don’t think that it’s completely out of the question that because we are affected by the same social media on a daily basis, that we have developed the same tastes.

Also during the time that we were talking to the students and watching them draw new images, we tried something off the plan, and attempted to teach them how to fold origami cranes out of the sheets of paper that they were using. Initially this was just a way to pass the extra time that we had, but they seemed really interested in making the cranes. I think that this suggests that, at least for the students that we had, they enjoy making ‘cool’ things. I’ll admit that the crane may not have been the best thing ever, since it is a complicated shape to make, but while and after we were making the cranes, they got even more excited and open to talk about their interests.