It Was Good Talking with You: Student Perspectives from an International Collaboration

Michelle Prawer¹ and Miranda Zent²

¹First Year College, Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia

This presentation explores experiential learning beyond the boundaries of a physical classroom and the impact of micro international student learning experiences. Students from classes at each university prepared a shared assignment that explored the meaning, purpose, and imperative of creative arts education which they explored in a combined class over Zoom. Using Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle (2015) as a theoretical framework, we will present data taken from student responses to this experience and share possible implications for creating international learning opportunities through the block model. Student responses indicate that this experience deepened the perceived significance of the subject; recognition of national problems relating to Creative Arts Education assumed a more global significance, and the need for solutions became more urgent. Some students also reported that the experience significantly challenged their assumptions about foreign students. Faculty observed that while the block model enhanced opportunity for learning collaboration, it also presented some inherent impediments for effective implementation of international learning, for which we propose possible solutions.

References

Kolb, D. A. (2015). Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development (2nd ed.). Pearson Education, Inc.

²University of Montana Western, Montana, US