

Creating a Constructivist Learning Environment in a Common Core School



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Opening Paths  
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www.openingpaths.org

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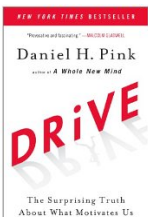
**Innovation Days**  
Ardis New Tech, Ypsilanti MI

Days 1 & 2

- Students explore an idea in self-selected teams.  
Technology – Research – Writing – Culinary
- Generate an idea or product.

Day 3

- Present findings and proposals to the school community.



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Speaking and Listening:  
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4](#)  
Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.5](#)  
Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

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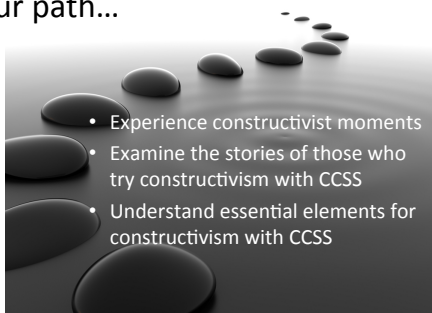
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Our path...



- Experience constructivist moments
- Examine the stories of those who try constructivism with CCSS
- Understand essential elements for constructivism with CCSS

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What do you **Know/Want to Know**



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What do you know?

- What are key elements for supporting a constructivist learning environment?
- How do we ensure Common Core is a lens for student-led learning?



**Think** **Share**

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Opening Paths MACUL Presentation  
Constructivist Learning Environment in a  
Common Core Classroom  
by John McCarthy

3/13/14

What do you want to know?

#opaths  
Opening Paths hashtag for PD dialog and resources.

LATEST

John McCarthy @JMccarthyeds  
Gr8 example of Ss demo content for a relevant audience Newton's 3 Laws of Motion: [youtu.be/v7g7MF4irKE](http://youtu.be/v7g7MF4irKE) from YCSD in VA #MACUL14 #opaths  
11 Mar 9:38pm

John McCarthy @JMccarthyeds  
@ASCD article is compelling reading re: Authentic Audience is key in any class structure [bit.ly/1gthngl](http://bit.ly/1gthngl) #opaths #publicchat #nlchat  
11 Mar 1:40pm

John McCarthy @JMccarthyeds  
Wax on, Wax Off...Driving Question Basics [openingpaths.org/2013/11/driving-question-basics/](http://openingpaths.org/2013/11/driving-question-basics/) #opaths #publicchat A dif perspective on DQ towards keeping the end in mind.  
9 Mar 2:00pm

[www.openingpaths.org](http://www.openingpaths.org) Tagboard.com/OPATHS

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Which picture(s) do not fit?

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**Guidelines for Supporting a Constructivist Environment with Common Core**

1. Collect data on student interests, perception of content, and how they process understanding
2. Establish and coach clear academic criteria
3. Teach/coach collaboration and develop collaborative partnership
4. Eliminate assessment fog
5. Teach/coach inquiry
6. Establish culture of constructive feedback

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5th-grade teachers, students learn from Tenn. girl's cancer battle



01/8/2014 | [Tennessean \(Nashville\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#), [The](#)

Fifth-grade teachers at DuPont Hadley Middle Prep in Tennessee created class projects around one student's second battle with cancer. Students studied cancer cells in science class, wrote letters about their scientific discoveries in English class, and used their math class to plan and budget for an event that raised \$1,300 for pediatric cancer research. "Our kids learned from the ground up what cancer is and how many millions of individuals suffer from it," principal Kevin Armstrong said.

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Collect data on student interests, perception of content, and how they process understanding



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### Learning Profile Cards

<p><b>Score 1-4</b></p> <p>Visual Auditory Kinesthetic</p> <p><b>Score 1-4</b></p> <p>Analytical Practical Creative</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>List 3-4</b></p> <p><b>Interests or hobbies</b></p> <p><b>Score 1-4</b></p> <p>Writing Math Reading Science Social Studies Multimedia Art</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Processing Style</b> Internal: 1-4 External: 1-4</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Front</b></p>	<p><b>Full Name</b> <b>Phone Number</b> <b>Email</b> <b>Social Network contact</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Back</b></p>
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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqdWiwziEU8>

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### Guidelines for Supporting a Constructivist Environment with Common Core

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**Establish and coach clear criteria**

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**Establish and coach clear criteria**

**Speaking and Listening: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:**  
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4](#)  
**Present information and supporting evidence**

- Clearly,
- Concisely,
- Logically

**Substance and style**  
[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.5](#)  
**Make strategic use of digital media**

- Reasoning
- Evidence

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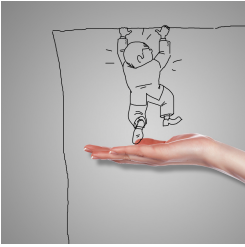
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 National School Reform Faculty  
Harmony Education Center [www.nsrffharmony.org](http://www.nsrffharmony.org)

**Pocket Guide to Probing Questions**

*Developed by Gene Thompson-Grove, Edoarah Frazer, Faith Dunne and further revised by Edoarah Frazer.*



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**Twitter: @Jmccarthyeds**

**Article Regarding Presentation**

[www.openingpaths.org/2014/03/constructivist-learning/](http://www.openingpaths.org/2014/03/constructivist-learning/)

Additional Answers to Presentation Questions:

#OPATH

[tagboard.com/opaths/](http://tagboard.com/opaths/)

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