Dr. Rhondda Waddell and Dr. Nancy Wood

Emotional Presence

The technological tools within Zoom and other tools discussed these past two days can be used to create emotional presence in the classroom.

Using a Whiteboard or Linoit - ask students to share how they are doing by posting a crayon color or post a picture of their favorite activity or share what they are thankful for.

Activity using Linoit. Share how you are feeling (mood) by posting the name of a crayon color.

Emotional/Affective Presence -- Creative work is at the very top of Bloom's taxonomy. A project's questions should prompt students to: integrate, design, invent, compose, organize, plan, propose, and of course, create.

Key Questions:
a. Asks, or attempts to answer, the right kind of questions: A project that answers a question with an obvious right answer doesn't leave much room for creative thinking.
b. Requires collaboration or cooperation: While individual work can certainly be creative, team work leads to more creativity for more students.
c. Doesn't need the student's name on it: Projects that are creative are as unique as the students that create them.
d. Includes original art or design: Creativity requires risk taking, just be sure to follow it up with a celebration of effort and risk taking… do not just focus on the quality of their creative project itself.
e. Transfers energy and demonstrates passion: The creative project should be fun you can easily tell when students have connected with the content and approached it in ways that reflect their passions and interests.

Instructions For A Creative Project:

Creative {Fill In Name of Your Class Here} Your Project:

Example: You will select a social justice issue and come up with a creative way to get the message across to the general public about this issue. Use this opportunity to educate and motivate your audience. Again, this issue must be something you feel strongly about and reflect your own opinions. If your message is not overt (for example, if you are going to use selected photography or interpretative art to get your message across), you will need to provide a brief explanation of your message. It can involve music, art, poetry, creative writing, brochures, etc.

You may also find a peer reviewed journal article to support your opinion regarding your chosen topic, and current social media such as newsy articles that demonstrates the concerns that are occurring regarding the chosen issue.

 Then share your findings in class.

What Happens When You Are FORGOTTEN

This postcard contains photographs of the living conditions from my foster care placement in Driftwood, Texas. I lived here thirteen months, but it felt like eternity. As you can see from the postcard, we had no running water or electricity. We slept in the shacks without any walls, and kept our personal items in small metal containers.

While in Foster Care, I experienced continued abuse, unsafe living conditions, and repeated trauma. This postcard was created to raise awareness of the flaws within our system that at times makes you feel forgotten, and advocate for change for a system designed to protect our most vulnerable.

Student chose to bring to class vegan plant-based food for all to taste that was yummy.
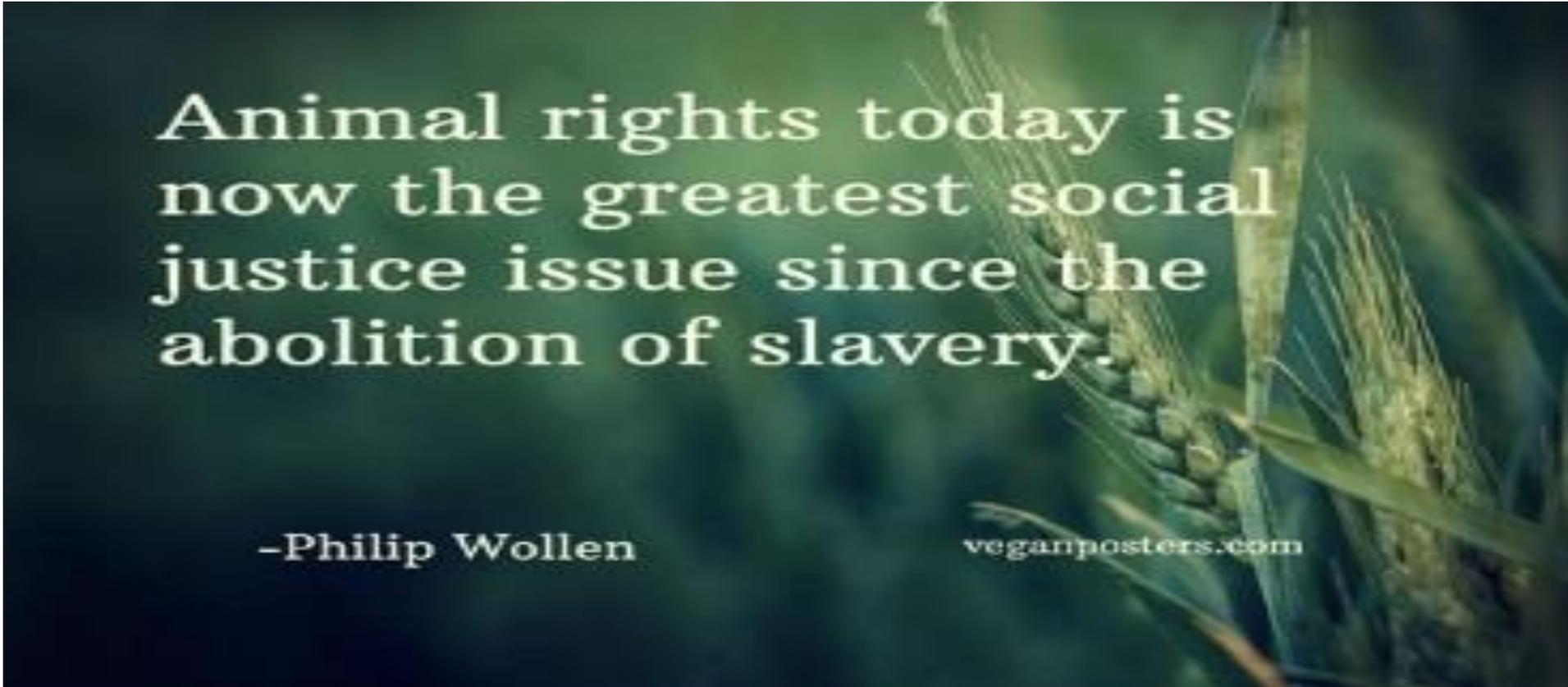
Animal rights today is now the greatest social justice issue since the abolition of slavery.

–Philip Wollen

veganposters.com

The Hard Work of Creativity

Making creativity a requirement for your learning projects isn't just about fun. When we take a creative approach, our students are free to try new things and explore passions.

But creativity isn't easy, it's the result of hard work!

*Hard work **building adequate content knowledge** to be capable of transformative ideas and products.*

*Hard work **creating original infographics to display data in more revealing ways**.*

*Hard work **drawing and designing original artwork to model our ideas** or connect with our audience.*

*Hard work **looking at ideas from multiple perspectives**, especially those that contradict our own.*

*Hard work **doing thinking that isn't just remembering**, but is connecting, synthesizing, and transforming.*

*Hard work **imagining what could be instead of using or thinking about what already is.***

*Hard work **bringing the novel into existence** and getting others to value what is new and different.*

References

Amabile, T. (2012) What Doesn't Motivate Creativity Can Kill It. Harvard Business Review Blog, April 25, 2012.

Bruner, J. (1996) The Culture of Education. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Questions are the path to learning