

Script: enacting meaningful learning through structured processes

Hi, welcome to the Digital Destiny video “enacting meaningful learning through structured processes”. If you haven’t yet worked through the other Digital Destiny Principles, we highly recommend that you complete them before beginning this principle as all five Digital Destiny Principles are combined here. In this module, we are going to discuss the concept of meaningful learning and how you can stimulate meaning through a structured process of learning. But how do you teach with meaning? And what is meaningful learning?

Meaningful learning

Meaningful education is about helping your students acquire new knowledge that relates to their own experiences and which they can easily interpret and apply. The key idea is that your students gradually integrate new pieces of knowledge. They integrate this within existing pathways in their own cognitive structures. Making learning meaningful for them through meaningful contexts will increase their engagement. On the other hand, learning becomes meaningful for the students when they understand why they are learning.

What are structured processes?

So, we are going to demonstrate how you can scaffold meaningful learning through designing structured learning processes. But what are structured processes? Structured processes are methods of learning which outline clear steps to move towards an intended outcome. In this Digital Destiny module, you will learn about combining steps from various methodologies and approaches to define a clear step by step learning pathway for your students.

Structured processes involve carefully designed activities in a sequence which facilitates selecting, defining, thinking of, talking about, reflecting, evaluating, and eventually reaching a result regarding a societal issue. In structured activities, you facilitate interaction between students. You open up possibilities to explore and discuss multiple societal issues together and reflect upon it. This is where all the other Digital Destiny principles come together. These activities need to be both clearly defined for the student AND open, for the students to express themselves, interact, investigate, evaluate, and learn.

Why structured learning?

But why should you implement structured processes in the classroom? By following structured processes, learning becomes meaningful for your students



and their own lives and future situations. Acquired competences are transferable to other situations. For example, you work on a societal issue about pollution in the school area. Your students can easily transfer lessons learned from this activity to their daily lives. They contemplate whether to throw trash in the bin or on the ground, they volunteer to help clean up their school grounds and thus transfer the knowledge they gathered at school.

These structured processes support the creation of open mindedness towards societal issues and the development of both individual and collaborative practices on addressing complex societal issues. The five Digital Destiny pedagogical principles come together in a structured way. They allow for skills, knowledge, and attitude building, as well as acquiring a set of values deriving from multiple perspectives regarding societal issues.

Three methodologies of structured learning

There are various methodologies and processes to scaffold meaning making and thus the transfer of knowledge. Let's take a closer look at: storytelling, design thinking and project-based learning.

1. [Design thinking](#)

Let's start with the Design Thinking process. It's both a way of thinking and an approach for learning. It encourages students to explore new creative ideas to solve a complex societal issue. Students learn how to frame a problem and understand who is affected by it, challenge assumptions, redefine a problem and investigate well before working towards a creative solution. The Design Thinking process supports the development of empathy, curiosity, definition of problems and parameters, and creating and testing new solutions through 5 structured steps.

2. [Storytelling](#)

Next, we approach storytelling. Storytelling is a powerful way to imagine and re-imagine the world. Storytelling is a pedagogical method to help students construct and rebuild their knowledge about the world. Exchanging stories is a way to engage with the world as it is, as others see it and how we would like it to be.

3. [Project-based learning](#)

Finally, we have project-based learning. Project-based learning is a method where students work on a specific project for an extended period. They investigate a societal issue, plan, and try to solve problems. They learn through a process towards a final project deliverable, where they integrate all the competences they acquire while working on the issue.

How to put the three methodologies together?

These have one thing in common, they all focus on the process of learning in a structured way and not necessarily on the final output. They are all what is called human centered. Focusing attention on the human, being affected by a certain societal issue. They can facilitate multiple competences among your students. You can use a story to create a context, introduce a concept or to provide new knowledge in a hypothetical situation via a metaphor.

In this Digital Destiny module, you will see how the story of the Three Little Pigs can provide a context for working on a societal issue, in this case, that of housing need, and connect it to several of United Nations' Sustainability Development Goals.

With the story as a context, you can start thinking about framing the problem the pigs are facing by applying the steps of the design thinking process. Beginning with empathizing and then defining the problem, linking it directly to the students' lives. To provide a tangible outcome of the societal issue, you can engage your students in project-based learning. This concrete example shows how you can enact meaningful learning through structured processes.

There are countless combinations and variations to make learning meaningful through those structured processes, so let your creativity run wild or find some inspiration in our lesson materials about meaningful learning through structured processes.

Thanks for watching!