

Innovations in Thinking and Learning

Suzie Milinovich – Knowledge Forum Fosters Student Ideas

STUDENT: On Knowledge Forum, there is, like, no order. You can just contribute whenever you want, and add your theory.

STUDENT: Sometimes over there we don't always get the opportunity.

STUDENT: Because it's like -- let's say Dyron started off, and then it'll be, like, Michael. Like, there's mainly people that always take the spotlight in the number talks. And, like, it's like they take the spotlight almost the whole entire time of the number talk at TOGA. But here, there's like, no spotlight for anyone.

This was actually the finding, like, how can we figure out 20% of a number. And then, like, just -- there's a bunch of theories and adding, like . . .

STUDENT: This is my theory. My theory is that we can use a whole number, like 100, if we split this up into five, 20 in each group, each group would make up 20%.

STUDENT: Yup.

STUDENT: So that's one theory. And then I think -- yeah. This is my theory. I thought it depended on what kind of number it was. So I thought, like, maybe you can divide the number by, like, five or 10 or 20 to get, like, 20% of a number.

STUDENT: Well, when we read them, we come up with, like, questions. And then we click into one. It would say, "Build on," like right here. So you'd press that. And then you'd put, like, a question or a comment. And it would make, like, one of these blue arrows go into that spot.

STUDENT: I like using Knowledge Forum because it gives everyone a chance -- like, feel safe, and it's, like, just explain what they're thinking about the, like, idea.

TEACHER: And what were you going to say?

STUDENT: The same thing.

TEACHER: Do you like building onto each other's ideas? Do you feel heard on Knowledge Forum? Like people are listening to you and really --?

STUDENT: Yeah.

STUDENT: Yeah. Because on, like -- in the number talks, we don't always get a chance. But it's like here we get, like, a say. Everyone gets a say. And just, like, it feels nice.

TEACHER: Do you find you're having different conversations here with different people?

STUDENT: Yeah.

STUDENT: Yeah. Sometimes there could be, like, three totally different conversations going on at the same time.

STUDENT: Yeah.

TEACHER: And can you open the note again for me? I want to ask you something about it.

Can you tell me a little bit about what these are? Over here.

STUDENT: These are -- So, it's like when you want to add, you would press, like, "My Theory" or "New Information." Just put your theory out there. But when you contribute onto someone's, these are, like, things so --

STUDENT: Sentence starters.

STUDENT: Yeah. Like, let's say you add on to someone's, and it was a question. They didn't really understand what you were trying to say. With these, it would, like, help them understand. Like, I need to understand, like, what you're trying to say. Or if they cannot explain. Like, "Can you try to explain it in a different way?"

TEACHER: So, do you find them helpful?

STUDENT: Yeah.

TEACHER: For communicating your ideas?

STUDENT: Yeah.

TEACHER: Yeah?

STUDENT: Yeah.

TEACHER: And how does this help you learn?

STUDENT: You get to see everybody's thinking. So when -- like, sometimes people use the same strategy all the time. Other people use different ones. So maybe you could learn off their strategy.

STUDENT: Because it's like -- I'll add on to what he said. It's like at TOGA, you only get to see some strategies because it's the main people. But on here, you get to, like, see everyone's different theory and strategy of what they actually did. Because there's no limit.

TEACHER: And are you ever afraid of putting a wrong theory up on Knowledge Forum?

STUDENT: Nope.

STUDENT: No.

TEACHER: Why?

STUDENT: It's like, I don't feel -- I feel comfortable even if my theory's wrong, putting it up, because it's not an answer that's right or wrong. It's just a theory. And it would -- like, I'm thinking in my head, "Can anybody build onto this?" So I post it. And it's like, I want people to build on so I can understand more about it.