



Fort Hayes OPUS

“...to create expectations of excellence within students through challenging and collaborative learning by blending the arts, academics and career programs.”

Volume 2 | Issue 3 | Resourceful

7 Ways to Foster Resourcefulness

Marilyn Price-Mitchell, PhD

Teach Resourcefulness: In the words of Tony Robbins, “Success is not about your resources. It’s about how resourceful you are with what you have.” One of the best ways for students to understand resourcefulness is through the stories of resourceful people. What they learn from the biographies of people like Temple Grandin, Richard Branson, and Walt Disney is that all types of learners can be resourceful. Their commonalities include being able to see beyond everyday solutions, not giving up when problems get complicated, and learning from mistakes along the way. Ask students to analyze stories of resourceful people. What did they do? Why? How did they accomplish their goals?

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*Fort Hayes Field Trip to the Mansfield Reformatory's Blood
Prison Haunted House*

Apply Knowledge of Problem Solving to new Situations: One of the most famous and simple approaches to teaching problem solving was developed by mathematics educator George Polya in 1945. He identified four principles that form the basis of all problem solving:

1. Understand the problem
2. Devise a plan
3. Carry out the plan
4. Look back

In A Five-Step problem-Solving Process, A.C. Burris adds a fifth and important step to the list: extend the problem. This gives students practice in generalizing and applying what they've learned in a variety of contexts. Teachers should look for opportunities to connect the principles of problem solving in a variety of contexts. Teachers should look for opportunities to connect the principles of problem solving in a variety of subject areas and real-world experiences. This fifth step helps students connect resourcefulness to all aspects of life.



Encourage the use of technology: There is an abundance of technology to help students become more resourceful and productive. For example, mind mapping can help kids better understand problems and devise plans by visualizing connections, outlining different sides of issues, and determining next steps. Electronic planners, note-taking programs, and timeline software can help students carry their plans to completion.

Help students reflect on their problem-solving processes: To reinforce the fourth principle in Polya's approach to problem solving, help students understand what it means to look back. Teach kids to review their thinking processes. What would they do differently next time? Strategies for improving reflective skills can be found in Metacognition: Nurturing Self-Awareness in the Classroom.

Promote independence and collaboration: While independence and collaboration may seem like opposites, both are necessary to become resourceful. Students should be able to decide which tasks are best accomplished alone and which benefit from teamwork. Before beginning a class project, ask students which tasks should be done by whom? Why? How might collaboration help or hinder the project's outcome? When students take part in planning classroom projects, often done by teachers, they see firsthand what produces good outcomes. When the project is complete, ask students to evaluate what went well and what could have been done differently to improve the end result.

**BE EXCELLENT.
BE THE EXCEPTION.
BE FORT HAYES.**

**Focused
Organized
Resourceful
Teachable**

**Hard-working
Artistic
Yearlong
Engaged
Scholarly**



Junior Airforce ROTC Cadets participating in the Columbus Veterans Day Parade

“This is a hard truth for some to accept: that a lack of resources may not be their true constraint, just a lack of resourcefulness.”

David Burkus, author



“If necessity is the mother of invention, then resourcefulness is the father.”
- Beulah Louise Henry, inventor



“Be positive, be strong and be resourceful. The world really is what you make of it.”
- Bear Grylls, adventurer



“Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is.”
- Ernest Hemingway, journalist



“We are capable of infinitely more than we believe. We are stronger and more resourceful than we know, and we can endure much more than we think we can.”
- David Blaine, extreme performer



“The amount of satisfaction you get from life depends largely on your own ingenuity, self-sufficiency, and resourcefulness. People who wait around for life to supply their satisfaction is as important as more resources.”
- William C. Menninger, founder for treatment of behavior disorders

Teach students the art of positive skepticism: Being resourceful means developing the ability to look at multiple solutions to a single problem. It also requires a dose of skepticism. When we teach kids to be skeptics – to require additional evidence before accepting someone’s claim as true – we also teach them to be resourceful problem solvers. Teachers can model positive skepticism in the classroom, teaching students to think like Galileo and Steve Jobs.

Flip your classroom: One of the values of flipped classrooms is a teacher’s ability to provide differentiated instruction and encourage students to work at their own pace. Instead of associating planning, organizing, and problem solving mostly with homework, teachers can observe those processes in the classroom. This allows them to see when students hit roadblocks that get in the way of accomplishing goals. Proper guidance and support can foster students’ ability to learn from their planning and organizational challenges. See [Flip Your Classroom: Reach Every Student in Every Class Every Day](#) by Jonathan Bergmann and Aaron Sams.

November Events

through December 13

Smoky Brown and KOJ0 “Wish you were here” in the Shot Tower Gallery – from the collection of Dr. Roy Gottlieb honoring the artists in what would have been the year of their 100th and 80th birthdays.

November 4

Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:45-6:15pm

November 5

Professional Development (no school for students)

November 8

Fall Formal

November 13

Early Release (at 1:00pm)

November 22-24

Chicago Performances

November 26

Principal Show

November 27-29

Thanksgiving Break (no school)