

Youth I.D.E.A.S. Think Tank Reports

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Do “flipped classrooms” motivate students to learn?

Youth I.D.E.A.S. Think Tank Report No 8

The flipped classroom and flipped teaching methods encourage self-directed learning. They involve electronic devices, high quality teaching videos and small classes. Widely used in the US, Europe and Asia, this study asks how well can the concept work in Hong Kong?

Key findings

- 52.1% of respondents with experience of flipped classroom methods think they improve ability to learn independently.
- 45.2% of those who are familiar with the methods believe they enhance effective learning more than traditional teaching.
- 34% believe that all good teaching methods encourage students to contribute in class but 23.9% believe more interactive learning is crucial.
- 33.1% believe that a strong will to learn is the most crucial factor in self-directed learning.
- On average, respondents believe they are quite good at learning independently.
- Those with experience of flipped classrooms say online learning at home before class helps but some students lack the required initiative and self-discipline.

Suggestions and recommendations

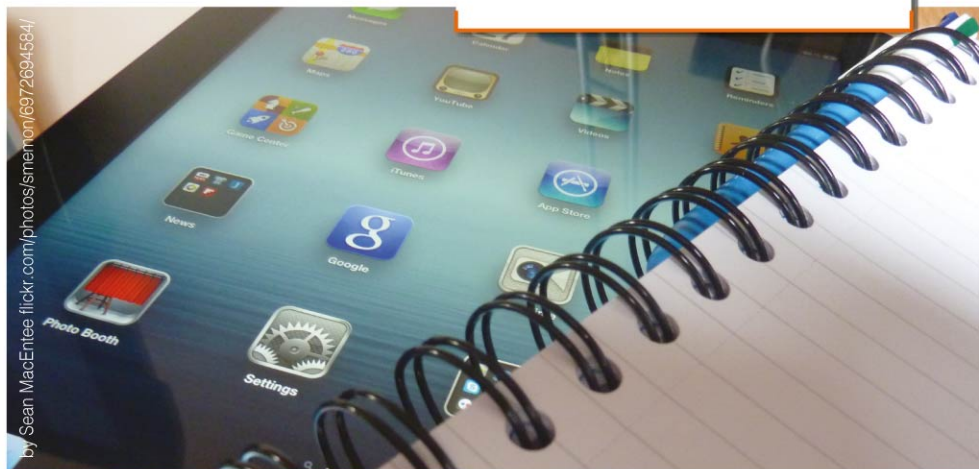
- Launch a government-funded “Flipped Classroom Pilot Scheme” in junior schools, beginning with mathematics and science-related subjects.
- Establish a “Teaching Video Sharing Platform” for exchange.
- Encourage cooperation between tertiary institutions to provide training courses for teachers in flipped classroom teaching methods.
- Suggest to schools that a balance between homework and online learning tasks could reduce students’ workload and increase motivation to learn.

Comments from Education & Innovation Think Tank members

Gigi Au-Yeung “A pilot scheme for flipped classrooms in certain schools could be funded by the Quality Education Fund. Professional advisory and supervision teams would be needed to help with its launch and evaluation.”

Steve Wan “A sharing platform for teaching videos would encourage greater exchange of ideas.”

Zoe Lau “Tertiary training in flipped classroom methods would help familiarize teachers with the concept thus encouraging growth in self-directed learning.”



The report is based on 995 survey responses from Hong Kong secondary schools received in January and February 2016. Focus group discussions and interviews with experts or specialist scholars were also held.

Full details and tables

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