

Learning Environments

The teacher in these environments:

Learner-centered environments

- pays attention to the knowledge, skills and beliefs that the learner brings to class
- reveals and attempts to remediate misconceptions
- understands that learners construct their own meanings
- builds bridges between students' prior experiences and subject matter

Knowledge-centered environments

- constructs lesson with skills and strategies what are specific to domain
- emphasizes sense-making
- offers ways to connect information into coherent wholes
- embeds information in a context

Assessment-centered environments

- provides opportunities for feedback and revision
- uses formative and summative assessment strategies
- helps to make student's thinking visible
- tries to understand what students are thinking

Community-centered environments

- connects the classroom to the larger community
- promotes collaborative learning
- understands norms within which students operate
- aligns activity goals with system norms

Straw Towers follow-up

1. How did the straw towers activity model some characteristics of the 4 learning environments?
2. How did the collaborative vs. competitive environments affect the activity?

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