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?