APPLICATION OF CONSTRUCTIVISM LEARNING IN GUIDED ESSAY WRITING

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Constructivism is based on the premise that learners actively construct their own learning. This article explores the use of constructivism in guided essay writing. It compares the traditional method of teaching guided writing with the constructivist approach. The changing roles of students and teachers under the constructivism are discussed.

Constructivism learning is derived from the view of how people learn. The theory of constructivism states that students create meaning about the world by synthesizing new experience into what they understood previously. They make rules by reflecting on their interaction with objects and ideas. Once they meet with objects, ideas or relationships that give no meaning to them, they will either interpret what they had seen to fit with the rules that have been established or modify their rules in order to clarify the new information better (Brooks & Brooks, 1993).

In this case, information is build actively from people who think. These individuals do not passively absorb any knowledge delivered by teachers. Students will adapt any new information with existing knowledge to build new knowledge in their minds with the help of social interaction with friends and teachers.

Von Glasersfeld (1995) stated that from the principle of constructivism, information is built actively from every individual based on previous experience. The construction of knowledge is a result of the modification process, adjustment, restructuring and past experience organizational structure.

Thereby, in the teaching and learning process, the constructivism approach focuses on students; meanwhile the teachers play a role as facilitators who guide them in creating knowledge or adapting the explored problem. Teachers too act as designers of instructional materials that provide opportunities for students to develop new knowledge.