



## Why Design Thinking Matters in Education: Nurturing Creative Confidence and Divergent Thinking

### Description

Design thinking is a problem-solving approach that involves empathy, ideation, prototyping, and testing. It has gained popularity in the business world as a way to come up with innovative solutions to complex problems, but it is not just limited to the corporate world. Design thinking can also be applied in education to help students develop creative confidence and the ability to do divergent thinking.

The education system in Singapore, for example, has traditionally been seen as too rigid and focused on rote learning. In this environment, design thinking can be a valuable tool for helping students break out of that mould and think more creatively. By teaching students to approach problems with empathy, they can learn to consider the needs and perspectives of others and come up with practical and innovative solutions.

## How Design Thinking Can Be Applied In Education

One way to incorporate design thinking into education is through project-based learning. Project-based learning is an instructional approach that involves students in solving real-world problems or answering complex questions. It effectively engages students in learning, allowing them to apply their knowledge and skills to authentic, meaningful tasks. By giving students real-world problems to solve and encouraging them to come up with their own solutions, teachers can foster a sense of ownership and agency in their students. This can also help to develop critical thinking skills and encourage students to think outside the box.

Design challenges can also be used to teach students how to prototype and test their ideas and how to iterate on their designs to come up with the best possible solution. Design challenges are structured activities that involve students in generating, prototyping, and testing ideas for solving a specific problem or meeting a specific need. They can be used to teach a variety of skills, including problem-solving, innovation, collaboration, and communication. This hands-on approach to problem-solving can be particularly effective in helping students develop creative confidence and the ability to do divergent thinking.

## **Improving The Education System With Design Thinking**

In addition to helping students develop creative skills, design thinking can also be used to improve the education system itself. By applying design thinking principles to educational materials and curriculum design, teachers and educational leaders can create more engaging and effective learning experiences for students. Design thinking can be used to identify students's needs and preferences and design learning experiences that meet those needs. It can also be used to develop assessment tools and strategies that provide students with meaningful feedback and help them progress in their learning.

Design thinking can be incorporated into various subjects and disciplines, from science and technology to the arts and humanities. In science and technology, for example, students can use design thinking to solve real-world problems, such as designing a new device to help people with disabilities or developing a sustainable energy source. In the arts and humanities, design thinking can be used to explore and solve problems related to social and cultural issues, such as improving community relations or promoting diversity and inclusion.

Design thinking can also be used to help students develop important life skills, such as communication, collaboration, and leadership. Students can learn to communicate effectively with their peers and work towards a common goal by working on group projects and challenges. They can also learn to lead, follow, and take on different roles and responsibilities within the group.

Incorporating design thinking into education can also have broader societal benefits. By teaching students to think creatively and find innovative solutions to complex problems, we can help prepare the next generation of leaders to tackle future challenges. This is particularly important in a rapidly changing world where new challenges are constantly emerging. From climate change and sustainability to social and cultural issues, many problems need to be solved. We can help build a more resilient and adaptable society better equipped to meet these challenges by fostering a culture

of innovation and creativity in education.

We can also use design thinking to promote social and cultural awareness and understanding. By using design thinking to explore and solve problems related to social and cultural issues, students can learn to appreciate the diversity of perspectives and experiences that exist in the world. They can also learn to respect and value the contributions of different cultures and communities. This can help to build a more inclusive and harmonious society.

## **The Benefits Of Design Thinking In Education**

In conclusion, design thinking is a valuable tool for helping students develop creative confidence, the ability to think divergently, and critical thinking skills. It can also be used to improve the education system itself, making it more engaging and effective for students. By incorporating design thinking into education, we can help to prepare the next generation of leaders to meet the challenges of the future and build a more resilient and adaptable society.