Visual Thinking in Service to Crafting a Teacher

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The poster-demonstration will introduce a qualitative case study in an educational psychology course within a pre-service teacher education program. The study focuses on the cognitive contribution of visual expression and the role of imagination to learning in a higher education setting. The poster has two purposes: (1) Using examples of the student-created multi-media projects, to offer a display revealing the contribution of students’ visual representations to their thinking about learning. (2) Using examples of the instructional multi-media cases, to share the lessons learned from an instructional approach, which employs aesthetic modes of thought in an effort to foster multiplistic thinking of pre-service teachers. Analysis explores specifically whether the use of specific kinds of the aesthetic experiences helps foster students’ imagination and whether those change the students’ beliefs about learning. By integrating photo-collages, portraits, conceptual maps, and digital video, the display attempts to make the research themes more visible.