

Themes from Student Interviews on Engagement in Learning

Comparing All Classes to Technology Project on Business Creation and Stock Market

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NOTE: Responses in order of frequency of responses

What kinds of learning situations keep you the most engaged?

- Project based learning
- Hands-on learning
- Having a chance to be creative
- Being involved

Sample responses

- “I really like projects like the ones we do with groups.”
- “I like being interactive; not just reading out of a textbook.”

What kind of learning situations are the most boring to you?

- Just taking notes or doing only worksheets
- Lectures (especially with PowerPoint)
- Teacher has no enthusiasm
- Teacher characteristics (moody, strict, mean, ignores questions)

Sample responses

- “It is so, so boring to just take notes. I take so many notes and I don’t even look at the notes.”
- “I hate it when teachers just teach out of the book and don’t explain things enough. They don’t elaborate.”
- “It is so boring to me when a teacher has no enthusiasm and acts like she doesn’t care to doesn’t want to be there.”
- “I hate it when my teacher gets in a “mood” and won’t answer questions.”

What engaged you most about the Stock Market Project?

- Creating my own company
- Competing in the stock market challenge
- Using computers and the web
- Being interactive

Sample responses

- “We make our own decisions, buy our own stock and compete.”
- “It’s kinda cool. It prepares you for the future.”
- “I like creating the company myself. Creating and inventing it.”
- “It was fun coming up with my company name and design.”

What did you like the least about the Stock Market Project?

- Losing money in the stock market
- Nothing
- Quizzes
- Lots of work

Sample responses

- “I hated to lose so much money in the stocks. It happened so fast.”
- “There really wasn’t anything I didn’t like... Nothing, cause I’m winning.”
- “The quizzes were a pain.”
- “It’s a lot of work.”