ARGUMENT MAPPING METHOD AND CRITICAL THINKING DISPOSITIONS

OF LEARNERS IN PHYSICS

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(Physics)

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Abstract

The guasi-experimental study was conducted to determine the effect of argument mapping method of teaching to the critical thinking dispositions of learners in Physics. Argument mapping presents ideas in a verbal-diagrammatical representation through boxes and arrows. It includes arguments or premises and contentions. The subjects of the study were the 56 Grade 10 learners for the School Year 2020-2021. The subjects coming from the two (2) intact groups were determined using matching criteria limited to sex, Final Grade in Science 9 in the previous School Year, and First Quarter Grade in Science 10 in the current School Year. Random group assignment was done using tosscoin method. The Critical Thinking Dispositions of learners in Physics were determined using a researcher-made CTD Inventory which was given as pretest and posttest. The Self-Learning Modules (SLMs) in Science 10 for the Second Quarter was used for the controlled group. The same SLMs were modified to embed argument mapping activities and were used in teaching the experimental group. There were a total of seven (7) SLMs implemented for seven (7) weeks for both groups containing the Most Essential Learning Competencies for Grade 10 learners as prescribed by the DepEd. The learners in the AM group have a "very strong CTD". This is an indication of the learners' strength in overall CTDs. Also, they have "very strong CTDs" in intellectual honesty,

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objectivity, methodical, logical, intellectual curiosity, and reflective thinking subcategories and a "strong CTD" in intellectual self-confidence CTD. This is an indication of strength in CTDs and a positive inclination to possess these CTDs. Learners in the non-AM group have a "strong CTD" in the posttest. They also have a "strong CTDs" for the subcategories of intellectual honesty, objectivity, methodical, logical, intellectual self-confidence, intellectual curiosity, and reflective thinking subcategories. Results implied that learners in the non-AM group have a positive inclination towards critical thinking dispositions. The mean gain scores of the learners in the AM Group is higher than that of the Non-AM Group. Results mean that there is a higher increase of mean scores from pretest to posttest in the AM group than the non-AM group. Moreover, results revealed that there is a significant difference between the posttest mean scores in CTDs of learners between the two groups favoring the experimental group. This indicates that learners in the experimental group scored higher in the posttest in critical thinking dispositions in Physics than those in the controlled group. Results also revealed that the difference in the mean gain score in critical thinking dispositions in Physics between the two groups is significant. This means that the learners exposed to argument mapping method of teaching scored higher from pretest to posttest than those in the non-argument mapping method group. The results of the study imply that argument mapping method has a positive effect to the critical thinking dispositions of learners. Moreover, argument mapping method of teaching can be used to increase the learners' critical thinking dispositions. The researcher recommends that learners be exposed to critical thinking activities such

VIII

as constructing argument maps and be given opportunities to collaborative works and communicate their ideas. The critical thinking dispositions of learners can be promoted when they are constantly exposed to activities which require them to use critical thinking. Also, it is strongly recommended that further studies be conducted to develop better instruments to measure the critical thinking dispositions of learners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Title Page	i
Approval Sheet	ii
Acknowledgment	iii
Abstract	vi
Table of Contents	x
List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xiii
List of Appendices	xv

Chapter

1	INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY	1
	Background of the Study	2
	Theoretical Framework of the Study	10
	Statement of the Problem	16
	Hypotheses	18
	Significance of the Study	18
	Definition of Terms	20
	Delimitation of the Study	22

2	RE	VIEW OF RELATED LITRATURE	25
		Learning Theories Supporting Argument Mapping	25
		Argument Mapping	32
		Critical Thinking Dispositions	40
		Summary	56
3	RE	SEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	61
		Research Design	61
		Subjects of the Study	62
		Data Collection Instruments	63
		Data Collection Procedure	74
		Data Analysis Procedure	88
4	RE	SULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	94
		Descriptive Data Analysis	94
		Inferential Data Analysis	106
5	SUI	MMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	140
		Summary of the Problems, Method, and Findings	140
		Conclusions	147
		Implications	149
		Recommendations	158
RE	FERI	ENCES	162
AP	PENI	DICES	184

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	Schematic Diagram of the Study	16
2	Schematic Diagram of the Pretest-Posttest Design	62
3	Flow chart on the Processing of learners' constructed argument maps	83
4	Flow chart for gathering data on teacher's experiences using argument maps	85
5	Procedural design of the study	87
6	Flow Chart on Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Data	90

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Subjects of the Study According to Grouping/Section	63
2	Mean Scores, Verbal Interpretation, and Description of Critical Thinking Dispositions in Physics of Grade 10 Learners	68
3	Matrix of Activities for the Actual Implementation of the Intervention	71
4	Learners' level of competence in constructing argument map	81
5	Pretest and Posttest Scores in CTDI of Grade 10 Learners in the Argument Mapping Method of Teaching Group	96
6	Pretest and Posttest Scores in CTDI of Grade 10 Learners in the Non-AM Group	99
7	Mean Gain Scores in CTDI of Grade 10 Learners	104
8	The t Test for Independent Samples to Show the Significant Difference in the Pretest Results of Critical Thinking Dispositions (CTDs) of Grade 10 Learners Taught using Argument Mapping and Non-Argument Mapping Methods of Teaching	107
9	The t Test for Independent Samples to Show the Significant Difference in the Posttest Results of Critical Thinking Dispositions (CTDs) of Grade 10 Learners Taught using Argument Mapping and Non-Argument Mapping Methods of Teaching	110
10	t-test for Paired Samples to Show the Significant Difference in the Pretest and Posttest Results of Critical Thinking Dispositions of Grade 10 Learners Taught using Argument Mapping Methods of Teaching	114
11	The t-test for Paired Samples to Show the Significant Difference in the Pretest and Posttest Results of Critical Thinking Dispositions of Grade 10 Learners Taught using Non-Argument	
	Mapping Methods of Teaching	117

12 The t-test for Independent Samples to Show the Significant Difference in the Mean Gain Scores of Critical Thinking Dispositions (CTDs) of Grade 10 Learners

120

LIST OF APPENDICES

Арре	endix		Page
	А	Letters	185
	A1	Letter to the Superintendent of the Division of Roxas City	186
	A2	Letter to the School Head	188
	A3	Letter to the Assistant Principal, Senior High School Department	190
	A4	Letter to the Validators of the Researcher-Made Inventory	192
	A5	Letter to the Validators of the Argument Mapping– Embedded SLMs	194
	В	Validation Tools	196
	B1	Content Validation for Argument Mapping-Embedded Self-Learning Modules (SLMs) in Grade 10 Science	197
	B2	Content Validation of Critical Thinking Disposition Inventory in Physics	200
	B3	Content Validation of Guide Questions for Grade 10 Learners Taught Using Argument Mapping Method	202
	С	Letter to the Participants and Parents' Consent	204
	D	Research Instrument	207
	E	Argument MappingEmbedded Self-Learning Module	210
	F	Weekly Home Learning Plan	222
	G	Reliability Test Results	227

Н	Statistical Data	229
I	An Excerpt from the Teacher's Journal	241
J	Rubric for Scoring the Constructed Argument Map	243
К	List of Topics/Lessons in the SLMs	246
L	Sample argument maps constructed by the learners	248

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