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Reflection on Action Research

Over the past year, I have learned more about my own teaching practices than I ever expected to. Through my research, I got to spend time exploring the practice of developing creativity in my students. It was a joy to see the creative solutions the boys came up with when they were given the unbounded opportunity to make things. The boys realized that the ubiquitous technology-use in our culture can actually be used to solve problems they encounter in their everyday lives, whether it's creating an iPad stand or redesigning the entire subway system. As they watched their designs go from their computers to become tangible objects, they became more engaged in the quality of their work and more aware of the impact their ideas can have. I hope that each boy continues to realize the importance of creativity, proper problem-defining and problem-solving techniques and collaboration throughout his studies and in life.

The next time I do this project or any other maker project, I will spend more time introducing the Design Thinking process at the beginning to make sure the students grasp the importance of properly defining problems. As the world changes around our boys, they need to be equipped with a variety of tools to conquer the new and unique problems their generation will face. This is the area of the project that needed the most improvement. The students were not aware of the process and how they could apply to other problems outside of the technology lab. John Dewey writes in *Democracy and Education*, "Only in education, never in the life of farmer, sailor, merchant, physician, or laboratory experimenter, does knowledge mean primarily a store of information aloof from doing." After completing this project, I am more convinced that we have to continue providing our students with scaffolded experiences where they can apply what they are learning to new and unique situations and problems. The next step for me is to work with classroom teachers to integrate these innovative teaching practices across the curriculum.

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