

VaKE

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Values and Knowledge Education

is a didactical approach which combines knowledge acquisition and values education, and is **practicable especially for gifted children**.

Values education

has been neglected in school but is essential for society. VaKE provides a possibility to do it together with knowledge acquisition; learning efficacy is increased in both domains.

Theoretical basis:

Theory of moral judgment of the child by Jean Piaget
Theory of moral development by Lawrence Kohlberg
Theory of constructivism by Ernst von Glasersfeld

Method:

A dilemma-story is presented and discussed. The students recognize that their knowledge is not sufficient to argue competently. They search for information they need and proceed to a dilemma discussion on a higher level.

In this setting the learning process is in the students' own responsibility. They have to create their knowledge base according to the challenges in the discussion. Learning becomes an active process because knowledge is constructed and will be tested for its viability.

Experiences

- In programs for gifted children
- In the regular classroom
- In summer-academies for students

International projects for adolescents (age 14 to 19)

- **Platon Youth Forum:**

annual summer-camp in August for gifted students from all European countries, located in Obertrum near Salzburg / Austria

Idea

The European Union is a community based on shared values, like human dignity, fundamental rights, democracy, the rule of law, tolerance, respect for obligations and for international law.

But: Do Europeans share common values?
Are values changing in Europe and, if so, in what directions?
What are the implications for European unity?

The projects offer an active debate on these questions, based on the VaKE-approach and practiced with topics of politics, economy, history, social science, health and care, techniques, research, etc.

One **aim** is to increase the **consciousness of active citizenship**.

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Teacher training program

Idea

Teachers are competent to combine values education and knowledge acquisition applying the VaKE approach in the regular lecture. The role of teachers changes from a presenter to a moderator and organiser of the learning-process.

The training-program offers

- knowledge about the theoretical base of VaKE
- competence in writing special dilemma-stories for VaKE lessons
- practice in the typical VaKE course
- creating a concrete VaKE lesson according to practical needs
- supervision during the process
- reflection on the process

Schedule

To be agreed upon, e.g., 30 hours in three blocks (two trainers)