Investigating Student Learning and Online Homework Tools

Chinedu Nwoko, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Research Mentor: Sarah Grison

Abstract

Many different learning tools are used in the field of education, but not enough thought is given as to how effective these tools are and whether there are more efficient alternatives that would better facilitate student learning. In this research, there are two major strategies that will be implemented: the first method is the development of online tests to gauge student performance and learning from video, audio, and text (to see which method of teaching correlated with the higher scores), and the next will be to investigate the development of students' critical thinking skills using homework questions. These experiments are designed to see what different tools actually enhance the teachers' ability to convey information and/or students' ability to understand and apply key ideas. The research and testing is more geared towards psychology students, but the results should be able to be applied in all fields of study.

Can Our Children Really Learn This Way? Discovering the Impact of the Afrocentric Curriculum

Ashley Ojiemwen, Speech and Hearing Sciences
Research Mentor: Ruby Mendenhall

Abstract

The current state of education for African American children continues to fall behind the academic achievements of White American children. I offer an Afrocentric curriculum to improve the current state of education for African American children. The need for improvements to access for African American children's educational success is longstanding in research. While many researchers identify failure in African American academic achievements, Afrocentric scholars offer the development of the Afrocentric curriculum has a solution to increase self-esteem, academic success, and systematic/institutionally structure awareness. This research discusses the development of the Afrocentric curriculum. Scholars debate the use of the Afrocentric curriculum in a kindergarten through 12th grade public education, and I will show the current case studies that argue for and against its use. My research finds strengths and challenges with the use of the Afrocentric curriculum. The Afrocentric curriculum can be empowering if the environment, the school, administrators, teachers, and students, are fully committed to the social, educational, and personal changes and principles that are essential to the Afrocentric curriculum.