

Benefits

How does knowledge building benefit students? Psychologists and educators extoll the virtues of social interaction that prompt learning on how to share, cooperate, understand others, and communicate clearly. Knowledge building is an important agent that reinforces social interaction as students share research and findings of common study subject matters with other students across the street, across the country, and across the globe. They acquire a self-esteem when sharing information



they themselves have researched. Students engaging in knowledge building activities acquire new learning aptitudes and approaches. When working with knowledgware, in our case the "Knowledge Forum" (KF) platform, students have to use and refine their reading and writing skills, including specific vocabulary as they work in collaboration to understand authentic problems from sciences and social studies domains. Research studies state that depth and breadth of a student's vocabulary is an important factor of an efficient capacity to understand various texts, while reading frequency is also often stressed as an important factor. Both skills are bolstered by the knowledge building methodology. In regards to writing, research shows that proficient writers are those who invest in developing ideas based on specific goals, i.e. advancing their comprehension of authentic problems. They also engage in clear word choice, self-regulate their writing process and revise their ideas. Students engaging in knowledge building activities demonstrate improved literacy skills, both in their mother tongue as well as improvement in foreign language aptitudes.

With the collaborative partnerships we are able to form between schools in different countries, older students begin to understand local problems within a global context. They are able to compare notes of the subject matter they are studying with students in other areas and share information to gain insights into similarities and differences of the problems in their communities. These students perform their research with a globallocal lens, or a "think globally - act locally" philosophy, as they create solutions to problems facing the communities in which they live.

Social Interaction

Improved Reading,
Writing and
Literacy Skills

Enhanced Vocabulary

*New learning
aptitudes and
approaches*

Improved
Foreign
language
aptitudes