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TEACHING, LEARNING  
AND CURRICULUM  
STUDIES

EDUCATIONAL CHANGE: TEACHERS' CREATIVITY ENCOURAGING  
PEDAGOGY IN A STANDARDS-BASED MIDDLE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT  
(241 pp.)

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Dr. Kyung Hee Kim's analysis of the Torrance Test of Creative Thinking concludes there has been a steady decline in all aspects of creativity in all age ranges of the American (U.S.A) population since the 1980's. It has been suggested that this decline may be linked to an over emphasis of memorization skills and the lack of creative development in the U.S. educational curriculum.

This Constructivist Grounded Theory study sought to explore the educational change of 14 teachers in one unique middle school environment in the Midwest with the aim of encouraging creative productivity in students. Data from 3 focus group interviews, 4 individual interviews, and the collection of lesson plans showing the development of units from both focus groups and individual participants was analyzed. The analysis of data revealed patterns which are present in the substantive theory, *The Theory of Middle School Teachers' Encouragement of Creativity in a Standards-Based Educational Environment*. Findings reveal creativity can be encouraged in students in a standards-based middle school educational environment and also prepare students to pass standardized assessments.