Excellent Educator, ISSN: 3048-9121 (Online) Vol. 3-5, March 1, 2026

Balance Matters in Inquiry

Summary of Morris (2025)

Excellent Educator, *3*(5), 4, 2026

Academic Insights

This summary explains the need to move beyond activity-focused inquiry toward balanced, comprehensive inquiry-based instruction. According Morris (2025) many classrooms equate inquiry with hands-on experiments while neglecting essential phases such as reasoning, explanation, and scientific argumentation. When exploration is not supported with structured guidance, students may remain engaged but develop only superficial understanding. The proposed framework emphasizes integrating investigation, reflection, discussion, and teacher scaffolding to promote deeper conceptual learning. Effective inquiry therefore requires a balance between student autonomy and instructional support to strengthen scientific thinking and critical reasoning. The findings suggest that meaningful inquiry depends on intentional lesson design that connects activity with explanation and understanding.

Apply This Now

Teachers should design inquiry lessons that include explanation, reflection, and discussion alongside hands-on activities.

Add This in Your Lesson

Guide students to interpret evidence, justify ideas, and connect investigations to key concepts.

Avoid This Mistake

Avoid assuming that practical activities alone will automatically lead to deep understanding.

Keywords

inquiry learning, scaffolding, conceptual understanding, scientific reasoning, balanced instruction

Reference

Morris, D. L. (2025). Rethinking science education practices. *Education Sciences*, 15(1), 73.

Suggested Citation

Excellent Educator. (2026). *Balance Matters in Inquiry*. Excellent Educator, 3(5), p. 4.