

# CAUCE 2025

Brock University • Niagara • May 28-30

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Knowledge Knows No Boundaries



## CAUCE

Canadian Association for  
University Continuing Education

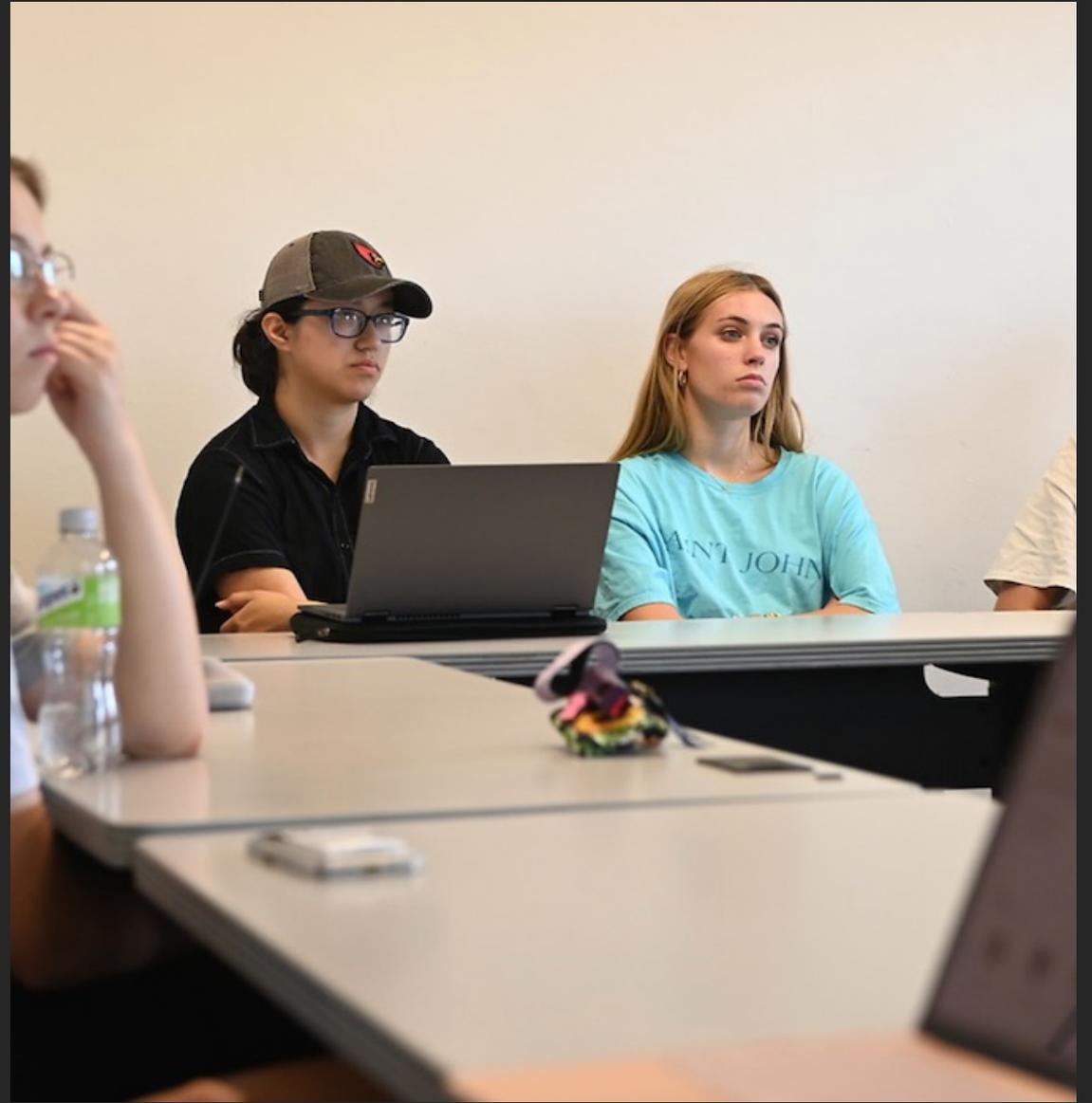


# Provocations in Higher Education: Lessons from Early Childhood Education

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Dareen Charafeddine







**Age 4-** Learning through Exploration, Wonder and Collaboration



**Age 20-** Learning through Lectures, Slides and Isolation

What would it take to bring back the curiosity,  
collaboration and joy of early learning into our  
higher education classrooms?

# What Are Provocations

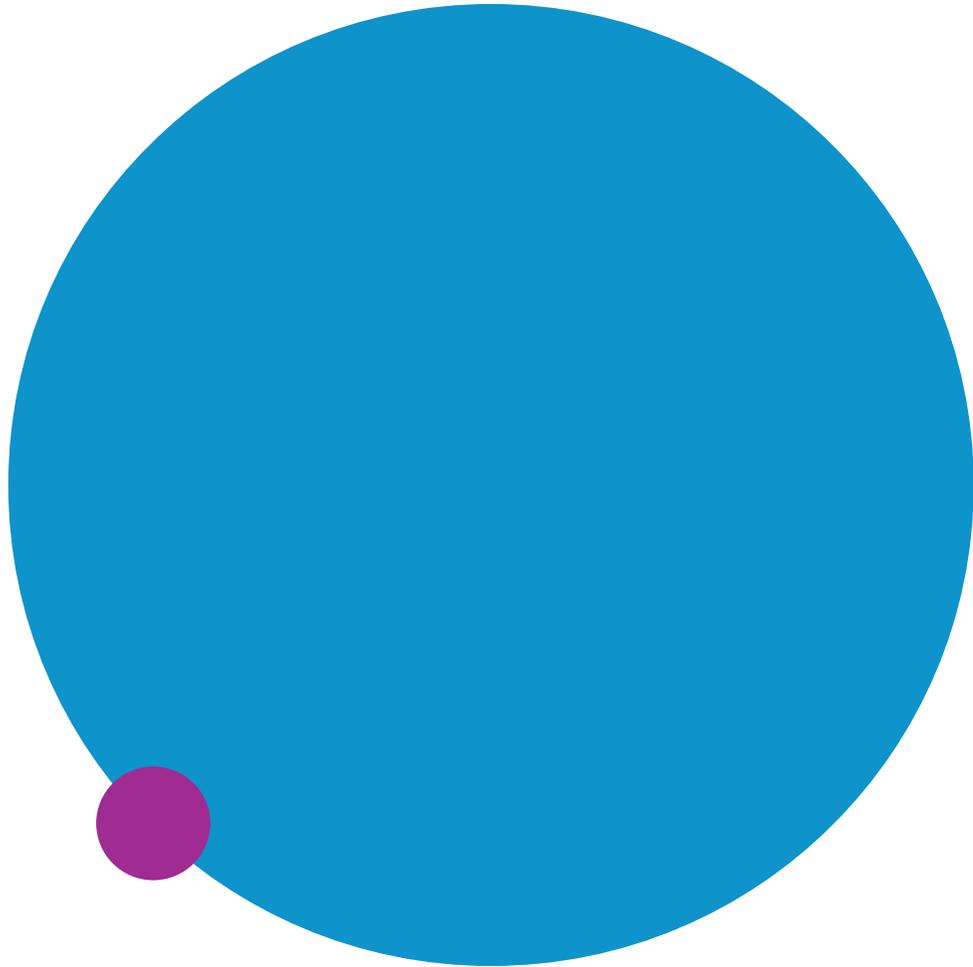
- Intentional, open-ended materials, experiences, or setups
- Designed to spark curiosity, invite exploration, and encourage questions
- Aims to provoke thinking, wondering, and meaningful engagement
- Key strategy in Reggio Emilia-inspired and inquiry-based classrooms

# Characteristics of Provocations

- **Open-ended:** No single "right" outcome or use
- **Invitational:** Encourage children to engage, investigate, express
- **Child-centered:** Emerge from children's interests and questions
- **Intentional:** Visually appealing and thought-provoking
- **Dynamic:** Responsive to children's evolving inquiries



Instagram icon @ugurgallen



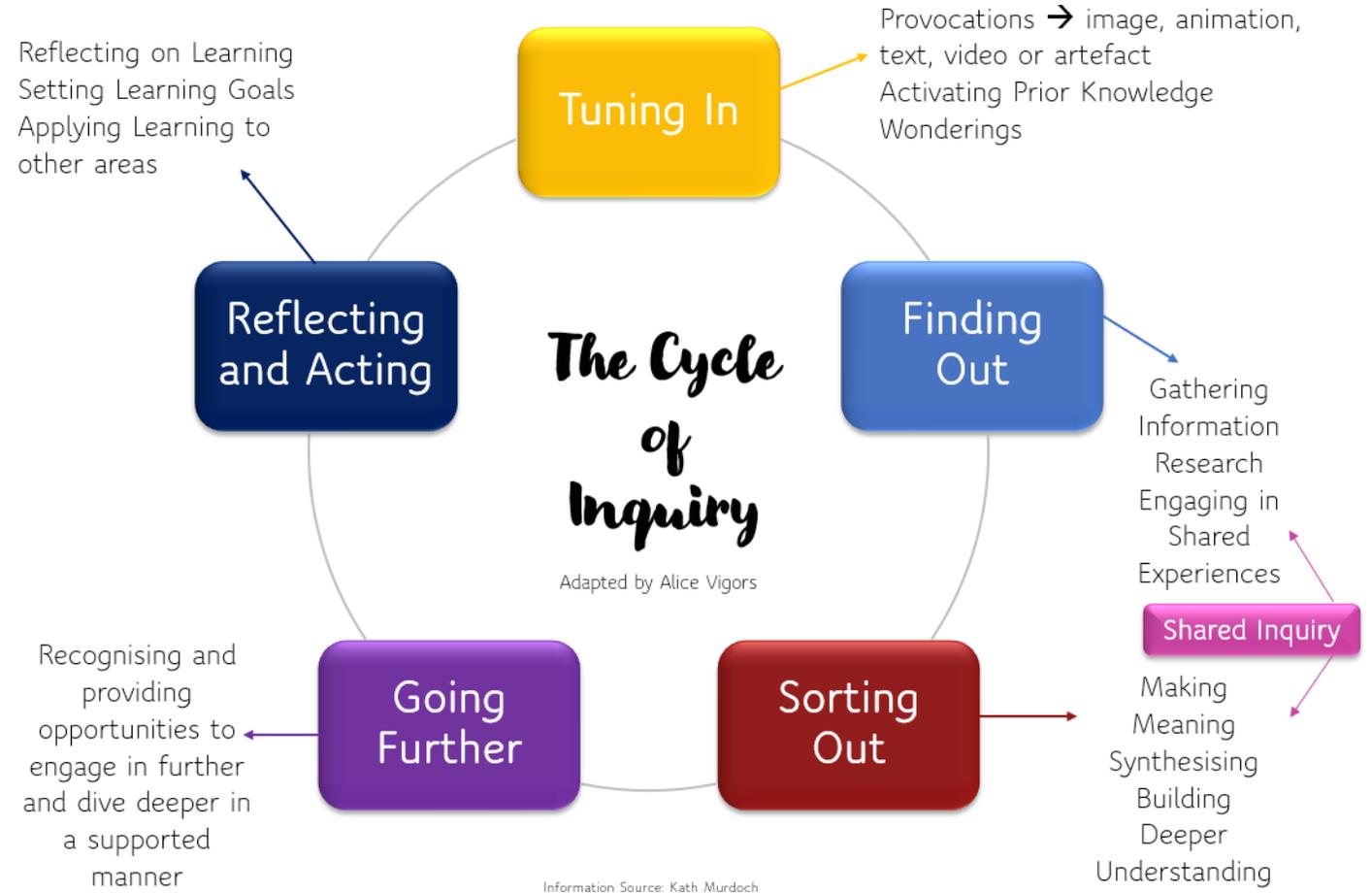
- Sometimes provocations have a negative connotation and is described in the literature in the sense that it moves emotions- it's meant to create a shock and hence instigate some kind of a message.
- Criticism is that it is Harmful to Students



# Examples of Provocations in EY



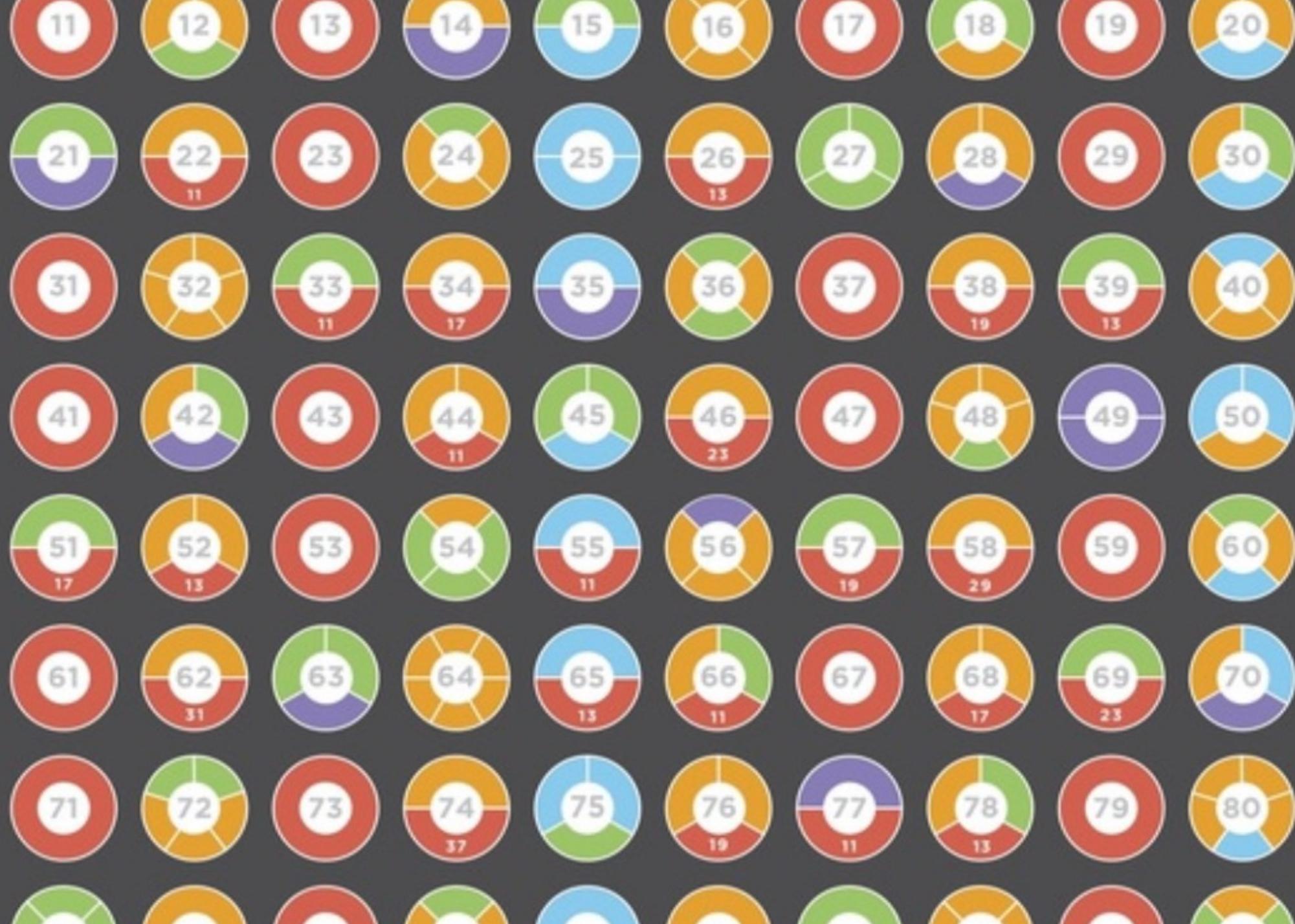
# The Inquiry Cycle





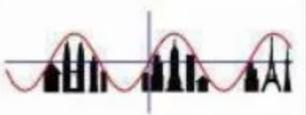
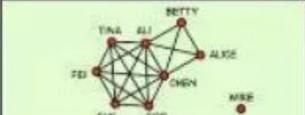
# Provocations in Higher Education

- Provocations can disrupt the passive norms of university learning
- Begin lessons with ambiguous images, quotes, real-world dilemmas, or open-ended case studies
- Invite students to *notice, wonder, and question* before content is introduced
- Position students as co-constructors of knowledge, not passive recipients





# Opening Activity- Guess the movies

$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$			$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n$ 
1609.344 METRES	$a+bi$	$F = \{x : x \text{ is a fear}\}$ $\sum_{x \in F} x$	[13]
$x \vee \{\text{cist}\}$			$(2i + 1, 2j + 1)$
$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$ and 666	$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \alpha \nabla^2 u = 0$	$\left  \frac{ds}{dt} \right $	2.7182818284590452...



Groups of 3  
or 4

Guess the  
movies



Select Your  
Presenters

Tell us  
how many  
movies  
you  
guessed



As whole  
class

Discuss



## **Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil**

by Joshua T. Dickerson

I woke myself up  
Because we ain't got an alarm clock  
Dug in the dirty clothes basket,  
Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform  
Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,  
Cause the lights ain't on  
Even got my baby sister ready,  
Cause my mama wasn't home.  
Got us both to school on time,  
To eat us a good breakfast.  
Then when I got to class the teacher fussed  
Cause I ain't got a pencil.



## COLOUR



**CMYK** 98/76/3/0  
**RGB** 10/83/160  
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**HEX** #0E93CB



**CMYK** 0/0/0/100  
**RGB** 0/0/0  
**HEX** #000000



Here are some included independent digital assets and the conference branded colour guide if you would like to produce your own slide layouts. This document has been configured to automatically use the conference font Tahoma and works best with PowerPoint.



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