A Freirian Participatory Approach that Incorporates Economic, Homeownership, Social and Community Issues into Adult Education

Andres Muro, PhD
Director
Community Education Program
El Paso Community College
1115 N. Oregon, El Paso, TX 79902
Tel: (915) 831-4161
amuro5@epcc.edu
What is a Freirian Approach?

- Conscientization
  - Base/Superstructure
- Change
Freirian Pedagogical Process

- Objectify Personal Reality
- Study and Understand
- Collective Transformation
- New Reality
- Objectify
Literacy for Oppression or Emancipation

- Literacy for economic purposes
- Literacy to reproduce dominant values
- Literacy to name subjective experience
  - Narratives that validate one’s history, values and aspirations
- Narrative that emerges of the struggle between the reproduction of dominant values and the naming of one’s experience
Meanings depend on relationship between signifier/signified-sound/image

- Immigrant
- Mexican
- Black
- Woman
- Arab
- Welfare
Instructional Topics

- Finances
- Owning a Home
- Renting
- Health
- Transportation
- Gender
- Marital Status
- Employment
- Children
- Politics
- Domestic Violence
- Environment
- Community Involvement
- Technology
Why Address these Issues?

- Need
- Access
- Participation
- Retention
- Completion

- It is the right thing to do
Instructional Model

- A model that allows for the incorporation of various topics and issues that are interesting and relevant to the students to facilitate language and math acquisition and development.
Barriers to Such Model

- Resistance by students
- Resistance by instructors
- Lack of professional development
Overcoming Barriers

- Motivation
- Understanding students expectations
- Pedagogical knowledge
- Context/Content knowledge

*Establish Partnerships*
Five Step Model

Purpose

- To facilitate language and math acquisition in a holistic, participatory manner, through various forms of communication and in multiple contexts
Five Steps

- Critical Discussion
- Reading Activity
- Writing Activity
- Group Activity
- Action Activity
Five Interactive Steps

- Critical Discussion
- Reading Activity
- Writing Activity
- Group Activity
- Action Activity
Prior to the Beginning of a Class

- It is recommended that the educator spends time interacting with potential participants in order to discover their interests, communication strategies, culture and idiosyncrasies.
Critical Discussion

**Purpose**
- To promote learners’ use of verbal communication skills and stimulate critical thinking

**Method**
- Speaker
- Tour
- Movie
- Reading
- Questions
- Listening Comprehension
Reading Activity

Purpose
- To expand knowledge of a topic
- To expand vocabulary
- To introduce new print material

Method
- Reading after critical discussion. Heightened learners’ curiosity
- Zone of Proximal Development
- Reading Comprehension
- Dictionary
- Summarize
- Paraphrase
- Memorize
- Recite
- Math
Writing Activity

**Purpose**
- To develop students’ writing skills in various contexts. Contexts include: notes to co-workers, instructions, letters to relatives, job letters, forms, essays, resumes, summaries, complaints, etc.

**Method**
- Journals
- Writing in Context
- Summarizing
- Paraphrasing
- Dictation
- Revising and Editing
- Solving Math Problems
Group Activity

- **Purpose:** To expose students to various communication contexts. Contexts include: friends, workplace, family, community, school.

- **Method:**
  - Role Playing, Acting
  - Group Reports
  - Tours
  - Guest Speakers
  - Family Activities
Action Activity

**Purpose:**
- For participants to use language outside of class. While a classroom is an experimental setting, the true indicator of language skills’ is the students ability to use language outside of a controlled environment.

**Method:**
- Procuring Services
- Applying for Jobs
- Interviewing
- Using Public Libraries
- Making Phone Calls
- Shopping
- Asking for directions
- Letters to the Editor