Reflective Practice in Education

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This professional development course helps educators apply transformative learning theory, proven to be effective in urban districts, to address diverse learning needs by reflecting on both their instructional actions and their learners' responses/engagement/outcomes. Reflecting on how a lesson was delivered and received is an act that should be aligned to goals and completed daily in order to impact social and academic growth among learners. This self-paced online course is designed for educators to gain a toolbox of daily strategies and tools for reflecting on lessons and determining the most appropriate action steps to take after reflecting. Video recording tools, critical-thinking protocols, and the Danielson framework will be used to analyze, reflect, and act on the social and academic findings in daily lesson videos.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in how to critically reflect on personal instructional practice using transformative learning theory to better analyze student responses, adapt lessons for diverse learning needs, and foster inclusive, equitable, and academically supportive classrooms.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Identify components of critical reflection thoroughly, including its characteristics and stages, with a focus on fostering transformative learning experiences.
2. Describe various teaching methods of inclusive, culturally responsive classrooms that honor diverse backgrounds, cater to varied learning needs, and embrace a strengths-based approach.
3. Select adaptable teaching strategies, cultivate supportive classroom cultures, and curate diverse resources to promote inclusive and equitable educational experiences for all students.
4. Analyze learner responses to instructional strategies to gauge comprehension and engagement, evaluate criteria for effectiveness, and adapt approaches to optimize learning outcomes.
5. Develop learning objectives and strategies, evaluating the relationship between responses and achievement to improve lesson effectiveness.
6. Analyze assessment methods for uncovering individual learner strengths and areas needing improvement, crafting personalized interventions, and creating targeted learning resources to foster academic success and meet diverse student needs.
7. Understand aligning toolkit strategies with lesson goals for self-directed learning, ensure inclusivity for diverse styles, and iteratively improve effectiveness.

8. Recognize outcomes from strategic tool implementation, creating artifacts showcasing impact, successes, improvements, and insights into decision-making processes.

Modules

- Module 1: Stages of Critical Reflection, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Reflecting on Diverse Learning Needs, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Adaptable and Diverse Resources, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Using Data-Driven Strategies to Optimize Outcomes, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Improving Lessons to Achieve Objectives, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Highlighting Learner Strengths and Enriching Areas in Need of Improvement, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Aligning Strategies to Improve Effectiveness, Inclusively, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Amplifying Progress and Success, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.