Getting in Touch with your Teaching Philosophy

Stephen E. Hadcock
Extension Educator
CCE of Columbia County
seh11@cornell.edu
So What?

- Is it important to know about teaching philosophy?
- What are some key concepts?
- How does it relate to learning style of learner?

“Without a rationale or a mission makes us technicians rather than professionals”

Patricia Cranton
Don’t be fooled, this is not an easy task. You must be willing to think seriously about “why” you are teaching, rather than what you are teaching.
Why Start Here?

- Teaching Methods
- Instructional Theory
- Learning Theory
- Teaching Philosophy
Why Describe One?

- Promotes an understanding of human relationships
- Sensitizes you to the various needs associated with positive human interactions
- Provides a framework for distinguishing, separating, and understanding personal values
- Promotes flexibility and consistency in working with adult learners

Adapted from Roger Heimstra
Framework to Identify Beliefs

- The learner
- Overall purpose of adult education
- Content of subject matter
- Learning process
- Role of adult educator

The Learner

• As an educator, have concern for adult learners
• What do you believe about adult learners?
Overall Purpose

• Is it necessary to have an overall purpose?
• What are the goals of adult education?
• What is adult education trying to accomplish?
Content or Subject Matter

• What is believed about role of content?
• What should be learned?
Learning Process

- Belief about how adults learn?
- Providing opportunities for learning?
Role of Adult Educator

- What do you do to help adults learn?
  - Envision how adults need help to learn
- What techniques do you use to facilitate learning?
### Philosophical Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Philosophy</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>Lecture followed by test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive</td>
<td>Participants ID problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviorist</td>
<td>Home study course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanist</td>
<td>“Participatory” approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radical</td>
<td>Community Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

February 1, 2007

TAG Train the Trainer

Zinn (1994)
Philosophical Orientations

Teacher centered:
Perennialism  Behaviorism  Existentialism
Essentialism  Progressivism  Reconstructionism

Student-centered:

Day and Amstutz (2003)
Working Philosophy

- Everyone has one
- Need to articulate, however
- Becomes a tool to use in making decisions
- Does it stay the same?
Now What?

• Share with others what you feel is your predominant philosophy and why.

• Compare and contrast difference between PEI and core values paper.
Thank you for your participation!