

Appendices

Appendix A

For recruitment

Study Circle Flyer

Contents

Study Circle Flyer

Study Circle
on
Teaching
and
Learning
in
Authentic
Contexts

What does “authentic context” mean for adult literacy instruction?

How can you incorporate contextualized instruction into your teaching?

The National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) is sponsoring a Study Circle to engage ABE, ESOL, and GED practitioners in discussing theories and concepts related to teaching and learning in authentic contexts. This NCSALL Study Circle is based on research conducted by a team led by Victoria Purcell-Gates. Their research examines the relationships between two dimensions of literacy instruction (the degree of authenticity of activities and texts and the degree of student/teacher collaboration) and changes in the literacy practices of students outside the classroom.

Participants will read from the NCSALL research report *Affecting Change in Literacy Practices of Adult Learners: Impact of Two Dimensions of Instruction*, and from *Creating Authentic Materials and Activities for the Adult Literacy Classroom* as well as the *Focus on Basics* article “Taking Literacy Skills Home.” In this Study Circle, you will meet with four to seven other practitioners to:

- Discuss the research information contained in the readings and consider how contextualized instruction looks in practice.
- Consider the strategies suggested by the research.
- Talk about and plan to use the research in your practice.

The Study Circle is organized into three sessions of three hours each. You will be asked to read one to two reading before each session for discussion during the Study Circle. All readings will be provided by the Facilitator of the Study Circle. We ask that you attend all three sessions.

- In the first session, we will examine teaching and learning in an authentic context and how the research was conducted.
- In the second session, we will discuss the theory of contextualized instruction and how it looks in practice. The group will also review other research that supports this research.
- In the final session, we will examine ways of implementing contextualized teaching. We will discuss the challenges of using authentic instruction and supports for integrating authentic activities and materials into our classes.

The Study Circle is a staff development activity. CEUs or PDPs may be available. The dates and locations of the four Study Circle sessions are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____ (with a snow date if applicable)

If you would like to join the Study Circle, please complete this form and send it to: [Facilitator’s name], NCSALL Practitioner Learner, [Facilitator’s address] by [deadline]. I can also be reached at [Facilitator’s phone number] and [Facilitator’s email].

Name: _____ Position: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ E-mail: _____