

The Introduction into Education

LESSON 3: REFLECTION AND PORTFOLIO IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND TEACHING PROFESSIONS

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Reflection and self-reflection in teaching professions

Reflection

The insight gained through the conscious or unconscious internalization of our own or observed experiences which build upon our past experiences or knowledge (Beard and Wilson, 2002:16);

Reflection is a form of mental processing, like a form of thinking that we may use to fulfill a purpose or to achieve some anticipated outcome (Moon)

Reflection includes self-reflection (Danielson).

Reflection and learning

'It is not sufficient simply to have an experience in order to learn. Without reflecting upon this experience it may quickly be forgotten, or its learning potential lost. It is from the feelings and thoughts emerging from this reflection that generalisations or concepts can be generated. And it is generalisations that allow new situations to be tackled effectively.' (Gibbs 1988)

Why reflect?

‘We reflect in order to:

- Consider the process of our own learning – a process of metacognition
- Critically review something - our own behaviour, that of others or the product of behaviour (e.g. an essay, book, painting etc.)
- Build theory from observations: we draw theory from generalisations - sometimes in practical situations, sometimes in thoughts or a mixture of the two
- Engage in personal or self development
- Make decisions or resolve uncertainty ...
- Empower or emancipate ourselves as individuals (and then it is close to selfdevelopment) or to empower/emancipate ourselves within the context of our social groups.’

Why should be teacher a reflective practitioner?

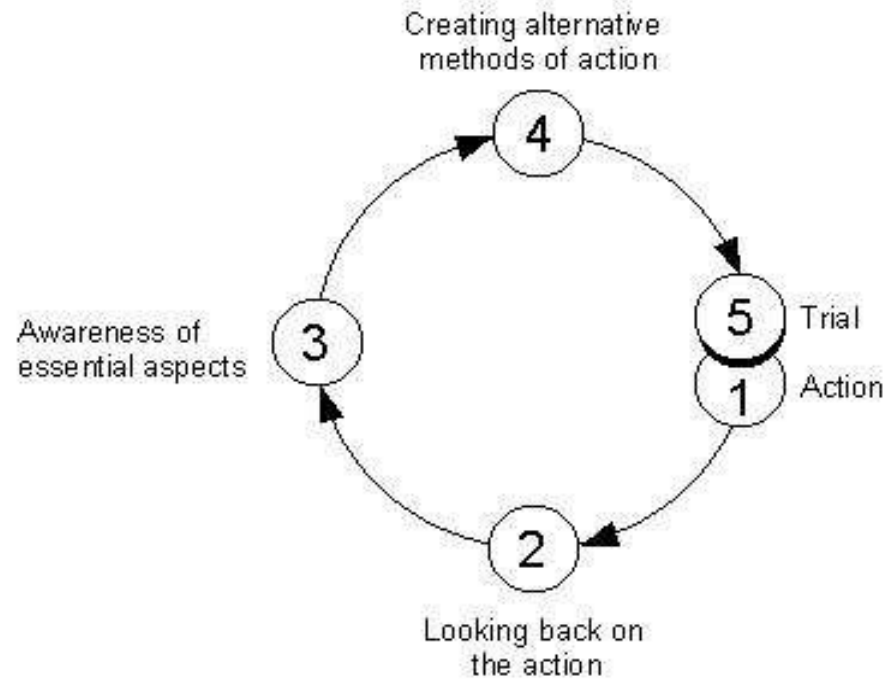
- Teaching is an act of thoughtfulness
- Thoughtful teachers engage in reflective practice as a way to think about their teaching and about ways to continually develop and implement curriculum that is personally meaningful and culturally relevant to students
- Reflective teaching means looking at what you do in the classroom, thinking about why you do it, and thinking about if it works - a process of self-observation and self-evaluation.

Tools of reflection

- Teacher diary
- Videorecord of the lesson
- Feedback from colleague
- Feedback from students
- Diagnostic tools
- Portfolio

How to reflect?

Fred Korthagen: ALACT



Deepening reflection

Moon: The Park exercise

Read: Support for reflective writing/learning

Deepening Reflection

- moving beyond the descriptive, and subjecting your experience to greater scrutiny

- 1) **Description:** What is the stimulant for reflection? (incident, event, theoretical idea) What are you going to reflect on?
- 2) **Feelings:** What were your reactions and feelings?
- 3) **Evaluation:** What was good and bad about the experience? Make value judgements.
- 4) **Analysis:** What sense can you make of the situation? Bring in ideas from outside the experience to help you. What was really going on?
- 5) **Conclusions (general):** What can be concluded, in a general sense, from these experiences and the analyses you have undertaken?
- 6) **Conclusions (specific):** What can be concluded about your own specific, unique, personal situation or ways of working?
- 7) **Personal Action plans:** What are you going to do differently in this type of situation next time? What steps are you going to take on the basis of what you have learnt?

Professional portfolio

A professional portfolio is a collection of carefully selected artifacts that represent your progress and accomplishments in learning to teach. It is a professional learning tool that you can use to reflect on your growth as a teacher over time.

Main goals:

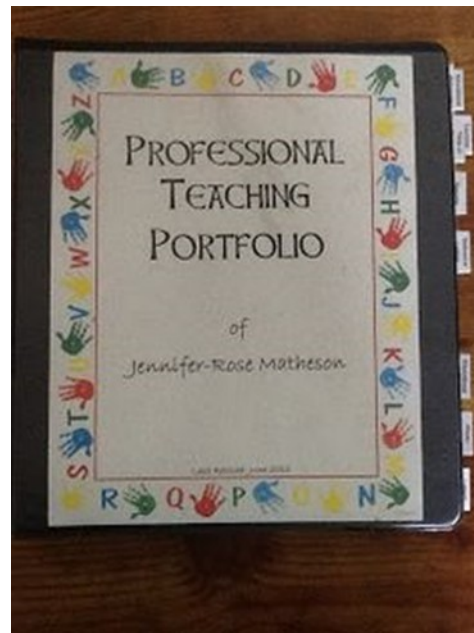
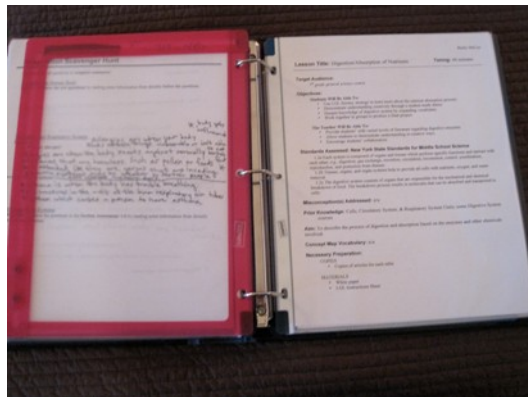
- presentation
- reflection
- self-reflection
- documentation

Student portfolio

As you engage in reading, writing, thinking, interacting and demonstrating activities to enhance your professional learning in the teacher preparation program, you will also gather and reflect upon various artifacts that will become potential portfolio items:

- seminar papers
- book and journal notes, summaries
- curriculum overviews
- lesson plans, materials
- assessment tools and results
- posters
- videotapes
- pictures

Student portfolio



PPIC inspire
motivate
empower

My Peak Portfolio

share - explore - connect - participate - learn

MY PORTFOLIO HOME
[My Guest Book](#)

PEAK MASTERY RESULTS
[FutureSense Feedback Report](#)
[Peak Purpose Career Compass](#)
[Peak Readiness Certificate](#)

MY PEAK PORTFOLIO
[All About Me](#) | [Contact Me](#)
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All About Me

My Picture



Me as a sophomore

My School: The School of the Marketplace

A favorite motivational quote: Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in. That everyone may receive at least a moderate education appears to be an objective of vital importance.

Who said this: Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865)

My advice for others: Decide your direction, be sure that it will benefit all including yourself, and then persevere to its conclusion.

Favorite hobbies: Fly fishing, history, and philosophy

Three favorite books and authors: Good to Great, by Jim Collins
The Simple Feeling of Being, by Ken Wilber
History of Warfare, by John Keegan