

## Pedagogy of...

Theorist and activist Paolo Freire's influential early work *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* engages readers in active, deeply-felt experiences of "liberatory" education while thoughtfully describing the aims and means of his approach to anti-oppression education. Likewise, his later works — *Pedagogy of the Heart*, *Pedagogy of the City*, and *Pedagogy of Hope* — simultaneously describe educational approaches appropriate to specific aims and contexts while teaching the reader *how* to enact Freire's (and, if they have been persuaded by the books, their own) educational aims. As educators in a field both promising and problematic, in institutions of learning situated in flawed democratic contexts, during this politically volatile and, perhaps, pivotal, moment in history, we have both an opportunity and an obligation to deliberately envision and develop our pedagogical aims.

As a participant in "Pedagogy of..." you will complete a conceptual workshop with a two-part aim. The workshop will create an experience in which participants will imagine, articulate, and develop your aims as educators — and so answer the question implied in the workshop's title. While conceptualizing (or re-thinking) your aims as teachers, you will learn (through experience) how to develop your own conceptual workshops for use in achieving those aims.

Developed by a cognitive psychologist and college faculty, conceptual workshops break the contents of a would-be lecture down into deliberately organized, discussion-based activities that participants complete in small groups before returning to the reconvened full class for result-reporting and further discussion. The author and presenter of the workshop facilitates the culminating conversation to conclude the workshop. Overall, the workshop structures a goal-oriented educational experience for participants. Such workshops can be used in language-

learning, text-based, cultural studies, or history courses *inter alia*. Even large lectures can be broken up to do workshops, as long as nooks and crannies for working can be found by the small groups.

The “Pedagogy of…” workshop will unfold in the same way as a conceptual workshop would work in the classroom and will result in participants having a refined sense of your aims as educators and a new tool for teaching with your mouths shut. (See Don Finkel’s *Teaching with Your Mouth Shut* [Boynton/Cook: 2000], for the creator of the method’s introduction to the conceptual workshop as a teaching tool.)