Collaborative Learning Activity  
DFL MidYear Institute January 19, 2007  
Marian Arkin, Leader  

I. First Activity: Peer Response  

A. Form groups of four. Once the groups have formed, please introduce yourselves to each other. Then please agree on one person to record the views expressed in the group and the decisions the group makes collaboratively. (5 minutes)  

B. One person (not the recorder) read the following aloud:  

"A teacher is no longer merely the one who teaches; but one who is himself taught in dialogue with the students, who in turn while being taught also teach." - Paolo Freire  

1. Discuss its meaning. Working collaboratively restate the aphorism in other terms.  
2. Drawing on personal experience, list collaboratively several examples of the aphorism as restated in #1.  
3. Review the recorder's notes to be sure they are accurate. (15 minutes)  

C. Plenary (15 minutes)  

1. Discussion of group process  
2. Discussion of peer response  

II. Second Activity: Peer Critiquing  

ASSIGNMENT: Write an essay of approximately 300 words or more in which you describe something about your education. Be sure your essay is clear, and your points are well supported with descriptive details, explanations and analyses. Your essay must have a thesis, topics sentences and a clear organization.  

A. Re-form groups. Pick another recorder as above. (5 minutes)  

B. One person (not the recorder) read aloud the assignment (above) and the student essay, “A Rural Childhood” (Each group member will also get a copy of the essay.) (5 minutes)  

C. Individually, record answers to critique questions on handout form. (10 minutes)  

D. Group members share responses and agree, if possible, on group response. If not, recorder, please record those not in agreement. (15 minutes)  

E. Plenary (20 minutes)  

1. Recorders read responses  
2. Group discusses process