

New Teacher Academy Far West GREAT Center

OVERVIEW: At A Glance

This 24-hour academy is designed to support teachers new to the field of adult education in providing quality classroom instruction. The activities will help beginning teachers develop a supportive network of teacher mentors and peers as they develop effective teaching practices, habits, and skills. Participants will:

- Attend four professional development workshops addressing learning theory, strategies, and resources that support engaged teaching and meaningful learning;
- Collaborate with mentoring teachers as they develop, try out, evaluate, and share learning strategies and activities in their own classrooms;
- Demonstrate a strategy with the group and articulate their views on their experiences.

Components will include active and collaborative cycles of instruction in adult education principles; planning, designing, and assessing teacher and student learning experiences, and; reflecting and reporting on instructional practice.

At the November 1, 2008, December 6, 2008, and January 17, 2009 Workshops:

- The workshop facilitator will provide information on learning theory, professional learning strategies, research, and resources that support engaged teaching, meaningful learning, and the Texas Adult Education Content Standards;
- The workshop facilitator will present and demonstrate a variety of strategies and activities to be tried out in the classroom by the participating teachers;
- Teachers will meet with mentors to discuss strategies, self-assessments, and reflections.

Between workshop sessions:

- Teachers will implement learning strategies discussed at the workshop sessions and *"Sit and Get" Won't Grow Dendrites - Professional Learning Strategies That Engage the Adult Brain* in their own classrooms;
- Teachers will discuss with mentors their accomplishments, challenges, and impact on learners and themselves as teachers;
- Teachers will prepare for their final Academy workshop presentations.

At the March 7, 2009 Final Workshop:

- Teachers will make 10 – 15 minute demonstrations of a classroom activity they have implemented in their classrooms based on the one or more of the 20 professional learning strategies addressed in the Academy. The presentations will include:
 1. a demonstration of the activity
 2. written instructions for conducting the activity
 3. identification of the professional learning strategy and Content Standard(s) addressed in the activity
 4. written self-evaluation reflections describing the activity's outcomes and its effect on learners and their own professional practice as teachers.

Resource

Tate, M. L. (2004). *"Sit and Get" Won't Grow Dendrites - Professional Learning Strategies That Engage the Adult Brain*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

"Sit and Get" Won't Grow Dendrites
Professional Learning Strategies That Engage the Adult Brain
by Marcia L. Tate

- Brainstorming & discussion
- Drawing & artwork
- Field trips
- Games
- Graphic organizers
- Humor & celebration
- Manipulatives & models
- Metaphors, analogies, & similes
- Mnemonic devices
- Movement
- Music, Rhythm, Rhyme, & Rap
- Project and problem-based instruction
- Reciprocal teaching, cooperative learning, & peer coaching
- Role-plays, drama, pantomimes, & charades
- Storytelling
- Technology
- Visualization
- Visuals
- Work study & action research
- Writing & reflection

Texas Adult Education Content Standards for ABE/ASE and ESL Learners

ABE/ASE Content Standards

Read with Understanding
Convey Ideas in Writing
Use Math to Solve Problems and Communicate

ESL Content Standards

Speak So Others Can Understand
Listen Actively
Read With Understanding
Write to Convey Ideas

Useful Links

Texas Center for Adult Literacy and Learning (TCALL)

<http://www-tcall.tamu.edu/>

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) <http://www.nifl.gov/lincs/>

Adult Education Content Standards Warehouse

<http://www.adultedcontentstandards.ed.gov/>

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) <http://www.cal.org/>

Equipped for the Future

<http://eff.cls.utk.edu/resources/home.htm>

Just Read Now

<http://www.justreadnow.com/index.htm>

4Teachers.org <http://www.4teachers.org/>

Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators

<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/index.html>

The OWL at Purdue for Writing <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Region 15 Graphic Organizers in English and Spanish

<http://www.region15.org/curriculum/graphicorg.html>

Ed helper <http://edhelper.com>

ABE Florida Resources

<http://abeflorida.org/resources.html>

ESOL Teachers' Resource Links

<http://www.ircc.edu/html/esol/resources.html>

ESL Cafe <http://www.eslcafe.com/idea/index.html>