



EDUC 408
Metaphor Presentation

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Why Play-Doh?

- 1.) Containers are like the human body
- 2.) Play-Doh itself is a malleable, like the brain, and contains our individual knowledge
- 3.) Within our COP we represent different colours
- 4.) As we mix, form, and share, the Play-Doh becomes its own collective colour
- 5.) We all take a piece away, and as we meet other colours, the process continues
- 6.) Cannot force the colours together as it takes time to blend
 - 7.) Needs equal amounts of participation or addition of colour to create a blend
 - 8.) If the play-doh becomes dry, you need to add water



Critical Aspects of Our COP

- 1.) Prior to the COP, we were all very individualistic people who were not very good in groups. But as we have developed as a community, we have become more comfortable
- 2.) Kolb's learning style – each member of the group learns in a different way and therefore contributes to the community in a different manner – this provides our group with balance



Critical Aspects of Our COP cont.

- 3.) Appreciation and patience with others
- 4.) Importance of networking with others to expand your own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- 5.) Building relationships involves more than meeting within a class to create an authentic experience within the group
- 6.) In our summaries, all of the group members had their own points of view that they drew upon and focused on



How We Worked Together

- 1.) We have each served as a mentor within our group according to the specific strengths we bring to to COP
- 2.) Encourage group members to go beyond their comfort zone – allow each group member to take on a new role each week
- 3.) We tried to build the best relationships we could given time restraints
- 4.) Structured approach of the COP takes away from the potential to create authentic relationships – as a group we tend to go off topic, our expertise exposes group members to new ideas and experiences



How We Worked Together cont.

- 5.) We take our piece of play-doh and add it to other groups, never fully detach yourself from what you have learned from others in your group.
- 6.) Transformation moments that we were not even aware of until we had the opportunity to think about it with others
- 7.) COP very informal but always respectful, give each other the opportunity to participate
- 8.) Each of us is accountable in our own way, but also respectful that everyone contributes to the COP in a different fashion



Learning's We Have Taken Away

- 1.) That we all have similar connections and are going to be successful teachers, each in our own way
- 2.) How important it is to bring your values into everything you do, teaching included
- 3.) A deeper understanding of the material because of what each member contributes in terms of thoughts and experiences
- 4.) We will remember what people said throughout our other experiences vs. facts that are just regurgitated



Learning's We Have Taken Away cont.

- 5.) We are all facilitators for learning within our COP – this translates directly to how we view our classrooms
- 6.) The COP provides us all with perspectives regarding a lot of different views/experiences
- 7.) Within our COP, we can discuss the specifics of learning, but also the deeper struggles of our lives becoming teachers. We are not alone in this journey



Wenger Stages of Development

- 1.) As a COP we are between coalescing and active
- 2.) We explore connectedness and negotiate community because we recognize our potential as a group
- 3.) We're moving towards developing a practice



If Our COP Were to Continue...

- 1.) We believe we could reach the memorable stage, however, we would need more time to develop deeper relationships and discuss a wide array of topics



Learning as Belonging

- 1.) Always agreed to respect each others learning, thoughts, beliefs and way of participation within the group
- 2.) That its about the relationships and that we are all in a state of transformation



Learning as Becoming

- 1.) A greater awareness of what learning is and who we are going to become as teachers
- 2.) There is strength in numbers, as a group, bouncing ideas off of each other strengthens the focus of the individual



Learning as Experience

- 1.) We talked about what COP's were and their function in our first meeting, it was through the experience of participating in our COP that we discovered how important they are in terms of our ability to gain new perspectives and be open to working collaboratively
- 2.) A trust that participants come from a place of experience and therefore can make contributions that are very likely to be relevant to practice (Wenger)



Learning as Doing

- 1.) We don't push people to express ideas past their comfort zones but instead let group members contribute when they feel comfortable
- 2.) Interaction is what's important to us in our COP instead of having an individual experience.



Critiques

- 1.) We focused on making a “good” group instead of engaging in conflict with each other to provoke deeper thought
- 2.) We feel engaging in critique of our COP gives us the opportunity to make it more authentic than it is – expressing how you feel instead of how you want others to view you.
- 3.) Within the COP, play-doh can take on more of one colour than others and there needs to be a balance. You cannot force the colours together and that they need to be moulded together over a longer period of time.

