

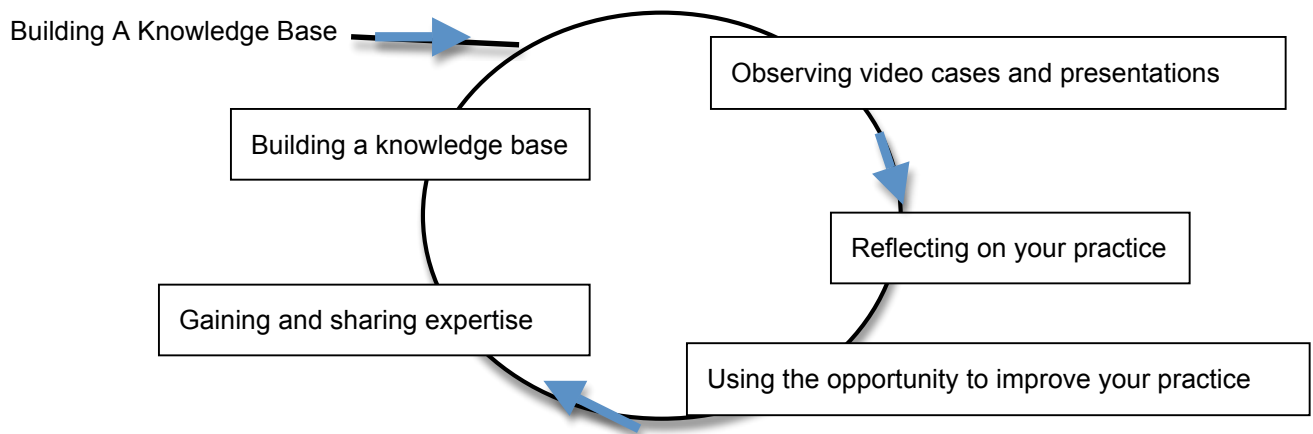


Community of Practice – Learning Together

Introduction

The DVD you have received is the culmination of the work that jurisdictions presented at the Emerge April 21st, 2008 Community of Practice event. Given that a major goal of this initiative is to develop 21st Century Skills in all learners, we would encourage teachers, principals and project leads to view their work and that of other participants through that lens.

This brief Facilitation Guide is based on the following model:



An effective professional development experience is one where participants come together to study, learn and develop new instructional practices. In this type of professional development facilitators need to be concerned about:

- Structuring an environment that encourages collaboration
- Creating opportunities for professionals to find their own answers and solutions
- Using group processes that facilitate reflection and sharing
- Providing resources that support research and study.

Session 1

Examine the concept of 21st century learning.

Session 2

Analyze the video examples looking for two specific areas of 21st century learning skills: critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration. Identify areas within your own classrooms where critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration could be enhanced or extended.

Session 3

Apply new learning into teachers' instructional repertoire. Have teachers work on developing plans to build critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration into their instructional practice.

Session 4

Share examples from teachers' classrooms that exemplify critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration.

Session 1

Examine the concept of 21st century learning.

1. What does it mean to be a 21st century learner?
2. What does it mean to create authentically engaging work?
3. What are the 21st century skills?
4. In what ways do the 21st century skills require us to rethink our classroom learning environments?
5. How do 21st century learning skills promote engaged learning?
6. How does the technology enhance and extend lessons in ways that would not be possible without it?

Materials required for this session:

- Article on 21st century learning written by Dr. Sharon Friesen
- 21st Century Skills by the Metiri Group
- Criteria for Meaningful, Engaged Learning - <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/engaged.htm>

Session 2

Analyze the video examples looking for two specific areas of 21st century learning skills: critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration.

1. Which video examples best demonstrate 21st century critical thinking?
 - a. Using the rubric Guide To Assessing Critical Thinking Skills available at <http://www.1to1alberta.ca/resources.html#21st> determine where the project you are viewing seems to fall in each of the categories identified?
 - b. What evidence from the videos and presentations could you point to as illustrative of critical thinking?
 - c. Carefully consider your own classroom. Where would you place your own classroom on this rubric?
 - d. Identify the areas in your own practice where you could enhance or extend critical thinking of your students.
2. Which video examples best demonstrate 21st century teamwork and collaboration?
 - a. Using the rubric Guide To Assessing Teamwork and Collaboration available at <http://www.1to1alberta.ca/resources.html#21st> determine where the project you are viewing seems to fall in each of the categories identified?
 - b. What evidence from the videos and presentations could you point to that illustrate evidence of teamwork and collaboration?
 - c. Carefully consider your own classroom. Where would you place your own classroom on this rubric?
 - d. Identify the areas in your own practice where you could enhance or extend teamwork and collaboration in your instructional planning?
3. Create an online environment for teachers to stay connected as they go back to their respective schools. Consider using the IO (www.iomembership.com) professional learning environment that all teachers have as part of their participation in EMERGE.

Session 3

Apply new learning into teachers' instructional repertoire.

1. Have teachers work collaboratively to develop plans to build critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration into their instructional practice.
2. Have teachers use the IO 21st century learning design process so planning can be made public.

Session 4

Share examples from teachers' classrooms that exemplify critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration.

1. Have teachers bring forward examples from their own classrooms.
2. Using the rubrics, have teachers discuss the ways in which they have created classroom plans and conditions to enhance and extend critical thinking and teamwork and collaboration.
3. Have participating teachers offer feedback to each other.