Take Action: Ongoing Professional Development

Quickly finding resources for use in professional development is often a challenge for busy teachers. While the principal may not personally have total responsibility for professional development, obviously the person in that job will want to participate with faculty in professional development planning and growth. Below you will find an effective starting point for busy school leaders.

Possible Applications:

NOTE: If you have Edutopia: Success Stories for Learning in the Digital Age, "Information Literacy," by Kathy Schrock, Chapter 36, page 245, would be very useful in this activity. The article describes old and new media, using the Internet, including the questioning, searching, evaluation, and citation processes. It is recommended that students have access to this book (www.store.yahoo.com/glef/edbook.html) as background for this activity.

Visit each of the sites listed at the Take Action: Ongoing Professional Development page. This is a listing of sites for teachers, administrators, professional developers, and others interested in keeping up-to-date in educational theory.

Task 1:  Spend time reviewing how the sites are organized, what information is provided, what group(s) support the site, and any collateral information linked from the sites.

A. Develop a rubric for examining these sites.

B. Use the rubric to examine each of the sites shown.

C. Prepare a brief report on each of the sites. Include how a teacher might use them.

D. Discuss your response in class.

Task 2:  Pick one of the sites and examine it in-depth, related to a particular topic in professional development; this can be an approach, a strategy, a series of studies, or particular theories and theorists.

A. Develop a brief staff development (maximum of 20 minutes) activity that you might use with your own staff. The activity can be experiential, expository, or a demonstration.

B. Present your activity, either in class or in some written or electronic format specified by your instructor.

The following Web site(s) appear in this activity:

"Information Literacy” article: www.glef.org/TSD/literacy.html

Take Action: Ongoing Professional Development: www.glef.org/TSD/ongoing_pd.html