PLA Doesn’t Stand Alone: Old and New Learning

ALAN MANDELL, SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE
“Tell me and I forget, Teach me and I remember, Involve me and I will learn.”
Benjamin Franklin

“[T]here is an intimate and necessary relation between the processes of actual experience and education.”
John Dewey

“All true learning is experience; everything else is just information”
Albert Einstein

Experiential learning is: “education that occurs as a direct participation in the events of life”
Cyril Houle

“All learning is experiential.”
Barry G. Sheckley
The Portfolio (the PLA) Course: Identifying Models

1) Academic Orientation/Academic Skills
2) The Meaning of Education and Learning
3) Introduction to an Academic Field
4) Personal Exploration: Autobiographical Reading & Writing
5) Learning from the Outsider Within (Thinking about Diversities)
6) The World of Work
7) Career Exploration
8) Dimensions of Expertise
9) Other models?

### Possible Outcomes of the PLA Process

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<th>Awareness of oneself as knower</th>
<th>Practice in academic (study) skills</th>
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<td>Time management and organization</td>
<td>Tolerance for ambiguity (sustaining uncertainty)</td>
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<td>Creating something for posterity</td>
<td>Awareness of different ways of &amp; approaches to learning</td>
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<td>Questioning what there is to know; what is known</td>
<td>Self-confidence; self-efficacy</td>
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<td>The “healing of oppressions,” the “healing of wounds” (Kindred)</td>
<td>There is no absolute separation between doing and thinking</td>
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<td>Learning as reflection (an introduction to the metacognitive)</td>
<td>Learning as listening, as dialogue, as collaboration</td>
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<td>Learning as transformation</td>
<td>Other outcomes?</td>
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From Outcomes & Competencies to PLA

From PLA to New Approaches to Teaching & Learning
For Discussion:

You are an experienced PLA practitioner; you have worked with students to identify and describe their prior experiential learning; you also have served as a PLA evaluator.

You now have been asked to design and lead a faculty development workshop **NOT** in PLA but in everyday teaching, learning and mentoring.

How would your PLA experiences and insights inform your goals and your activities in such a faculty development workshop?
Thank You!!!!

Please feel free to contact me.

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