



Educating for Careers Conference 2010

Connecting Our Classrooms to the local Community
~ Best Practices Shared for Relationship Advancement



Presented By: Dr. LeeAnne Del Rio

**Please take 3 minutes to think of the
most powerful learning experience
in your life...**



Experiential Learning:



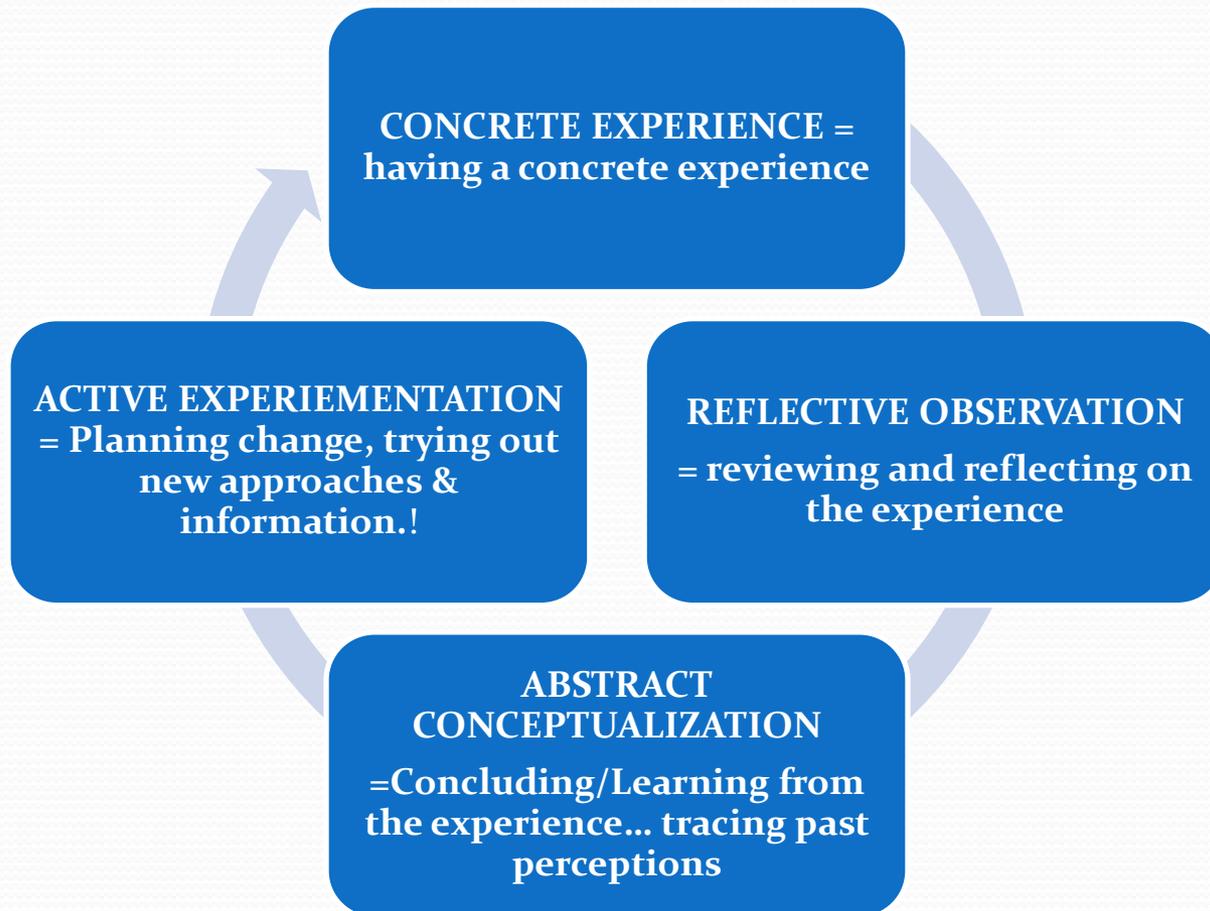
- **Stephen Brookfield** (1983, p. 9) Experiential learning involves a, 'direct encounter with the phenomena being studied rather than merely thinking about the encounter, or only considering the possibility of doing something about it.'
- **Houle** (1980, p. 221): The second type of experiential learning is 'education that occurs as a direct participation in the events of life'. Here learning is not sponsored by some formal educational institution but by people themselves. It is learning that is achieved through reflection upon everyday experience and is the way that most of us do our learning.

Experiential Learning:

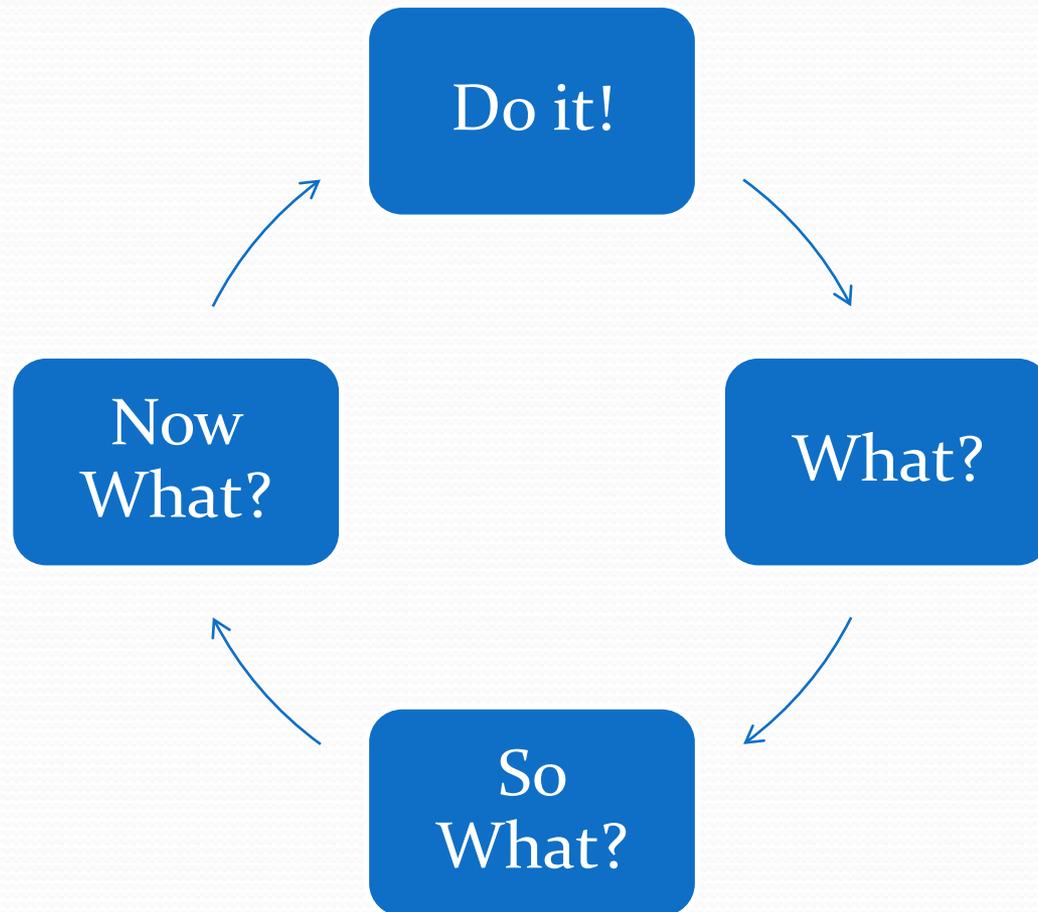


- **Chris Argyris & Donal Schon**(1974) The process of learning: discovery (or diagnosis)of a problem, invention of a solution, production of a solution, and monitoring the implementation in order to enhance its effectiveness.
- **Horton & Freire**(1990): There is a need for adults to learn by solving real problems and motivating them from within.
- **John Dewey** (1910): Knowledge is strictly relative to human interaction with the world.

David Kolb: The Kolb Cycle



David Kolb: Casual Approach-

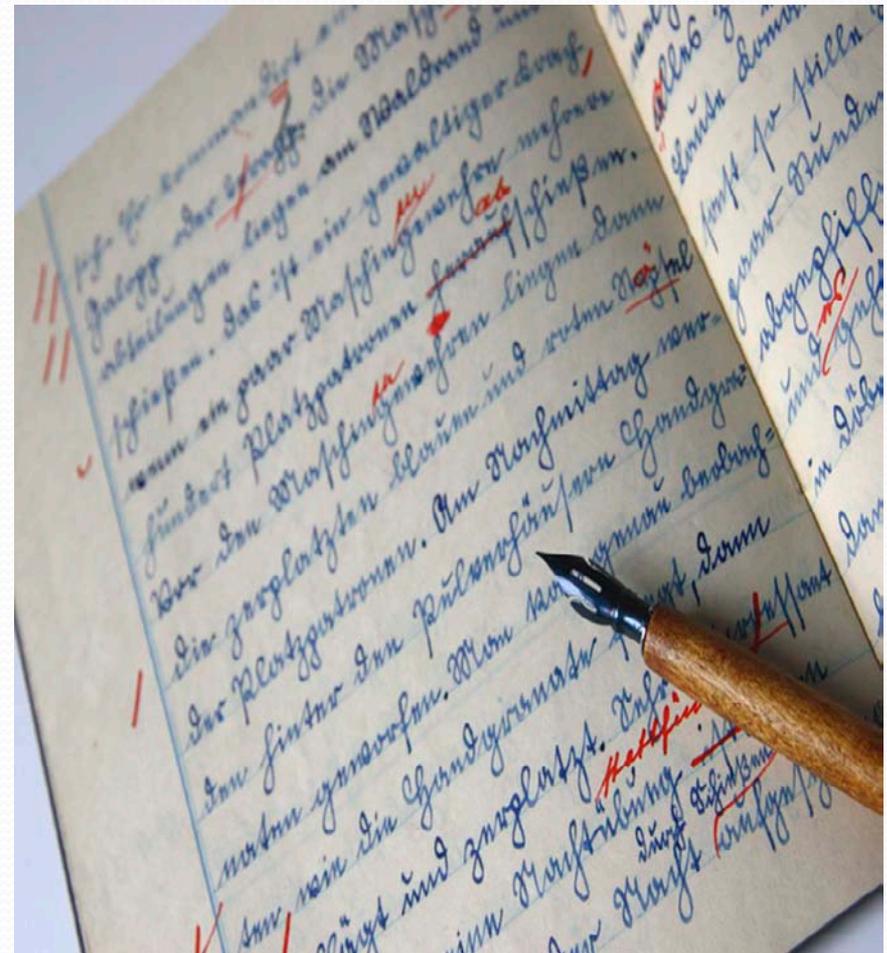


Self-Reflective Journals:

- ❖ Tie course work , weekly vocabulary, & course theories to what they are experiencing that week to produce a documentation of individual learning.

What does it look like?

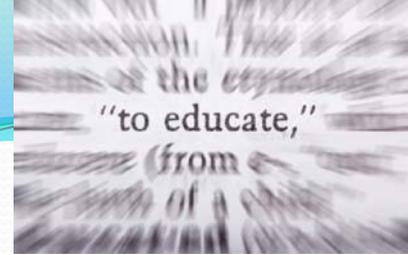
- A hand-written or type written journal entry, per day of experience, with 4 sections:
 - Concrete experience
 - Reflective Observation
 - Abstract Conceptualization
 - Active Experimentation



Need a Volunteer:



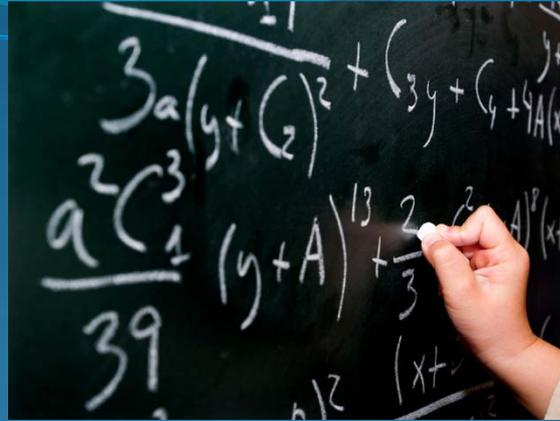
- Think of an experience that changed your life.
- What happened?
- How did it tie to what you already knew? What new bridge was constructed?
- Do others see things like you did? Why?
- What changed since that experience?



How to organize it?

- Provide a list of organizations interested in student volunteers, shadowing, lower level employment, or internships
- Provide key vocabulary, theories, & / or concepts from each week's curriculum to tie to experiences
- Provide examples of excellent to shallow journal reflections
- Collect the 1st two for feedback





Share Student examples...

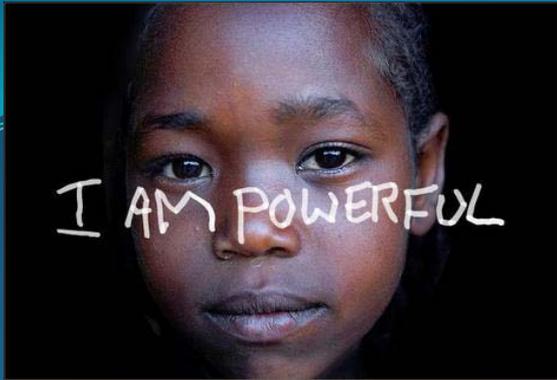




Working in teams : Seek-out people who Teach/work with similar curriculum/tasks

- How can I bridge my curriculum with my local Community?
- What steps do I need to take to turn experiences into curriculum?





Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.



-Margaret Mead

*Please take a few minutes
to fill-out
EVALUATIONS.*





Please state one idea about
connecting your curriculum to
your community that
inspires you :

