Lesson Planning: Contextualized Learning
Overview

• Identify components of contextualized learning

• Create effective and engaging adult literacy activities

• Discuss strategies for making adult learning relevant to participants

• Evaluate student scenarios to develop targeted activities
CONTEXTUALIZATION

You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.
“A diverse family of instructional strategies designed to more seamlessly link the learning of foundational skills and academic or occupational content by focusing teaching and learning squarely on concrete applications in a specific context that is of interest to the student.” (Mazzeo et al., 2003, pp. 3-4)
The Two Sides

Traditional Instruction
- Predicated on the active role of the instructor and the passive role of the student
- Uses conventional learning methodologies
- Places students in inert roles and abstract contexts

Contextualized Instruction
- Students actively engaged in the use of content in real world context
- Teacher is facilitator and helps to connect content and context
- Content is made “real” by using various new methodologies
Traditional Lesson
Contextualized Lesson
The Key is Real World Application - Math

Real World

Money
Budgeting
Shopping / Sales
Measurements

Industry

Banking
Business
Retail
Manufacturing
“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet...”

- Contextualized Instruction
- Content-Area Literacy
- Embedded Instruction
- Integrative Curriculum
- Infused Instruction

- Curriculum Integration
- Academic-Occupation Integration
- Situated Cognition
- Theme-Based Instruction
- Functional Context Education
Am I Teaching Contextually?

- Are new concepts presented in real-life (outside the classroom) situations and experiences that are familiar to the student?
- Are concepts in examples and student exercises presented in the context of their use?
- Do examples and student exercises include many real, believable problem-solving situations?
- Do examples and student exercises cultivate an attitude that says, “I need to learn this”?
- Are new concepts presented in the context of what the student already knows?
Teaching skills with direct reference to real world events and practices

Instruction in the basic skills needed in content course

Merging of basic skills and subject-area instruction
Teaching Grammar in Real-Life Context

North Carolina Community College System
Components of Contextualization

- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Use of Students’ Informal, Out-of-School Knowledge
- Active, Student-Centered Learning
- Student Collaboration
Examples

Aspiring Plumber

Allied Health Student

Loves Criminal Dramas

Starting a Business
Contextualized Learning Strategies

- Design with the most relevant approach in mind
- Design for effectiveness
- Design for transference
Breakout Room Activity

Introductions (Name and Institution)

Create sample instructional activities that address your assigned sample scenario.

The person with a last name closest to A will share with the whole group
Scenarios

1 - GED preparation classes that contextualize instruction to the knowledge and skills required for high demand jobs in the area.

2 - Occupational training programs to transition learners to new careers that contextualize instruction in problems or tasks associated with career opportunities in the area.

3 - Workplace literacy programs that contextualize instruction to specific job tasks required at a company’s worksite for immigrant workers.

4 - ESL programs that contextualize instruction around knowledge of employee rights in the workplace.
9 Steps to a Contextualized Lesson Plan
Breakout Room Activity

• Introductions (Name and Institution)

• Familiarize yourself with one of the six adult education students

• Discuss areas of concern, opportunities, and create at least 2 contextualized activities for this individual

• The person with a last name closest to Z will share with the whole group
Share Out

- Crystalle
- Geoff
- Jaime Ann
- Malcolm
- Mary
- Robert

- Give a brief overview of your student
- Areas of concern
- Opportunities
- Specific contextualized activities
Questions?
Thank you for attending!