

## **POPULAR EDUCATION: Principles and Practices Background for First Literacy Workshop, 2/11/19**

In this collaborative-learning workshop, workshop leaders will outline and employ methods of Popular Education for teaching ESOL classes with adults.

Friere-

Traditional Education makes people adaptable to what the oppressor wants.

It trains obedience, and values only productivity.

Popular education is **knowledge rooted in experience**

we change and shift in thoughts

we move.

*What are positive values of collective, facilitated learning?*

- creativity/critical thinking
- value of everyone's experience
- getting something done
- developing creativity
- needing to practice humility
- adapting to localized realities
- leader acts as a support
- **building relationships**

As we learn more from students in our ESOL classes, we can develop instructional strategies and lessons that build on their realities, their deep knowledge, and their goals. They enroll in our classes to learn English. As we continue to learn more about the contexts in which they live, we need to inform our lesson plans so that their learning becomes empowering.

This workshop is an attempt to demonstrate and to share our experiences to design such courses and lessons. We need the instructional expertise of those who have taught ESOL in many contexts AND we need to observe and try to adapt our lessons to the current contexts of our students. What are we learning together from our students and how have our approaches been informed?

### **THE WELCOME PROJECT**

The Welcome Project builds the collective power of immigrants to participate in and shape community decisions. We do this through programs that strengthen the capacity of immigrant youth, adults and families to advocate for themselves and influence schools, government, and other institutions.

### **THE SOMERVILLE FAMILY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE**

The Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC) is the department of family and community engagement of the Somerville Public Schools. The SFLC provides a variety of resources, support services, and programs to help meet the needs of Somerville families in supporting their children's learning and well-being, birth to adulthood.