



**NINTH ANNUAL  
INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATIVE DESIGN AND PRACTICE**

STUDENT EQUITY IN LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROGRAMS  
APRIL 22-23, 2016

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KELLOGG WEST CONFERENCE CENTER  
CAL POLY POMONA

# UNDERSTANDING THE SITUATIONAL CONTEXT OF OUR STUDENTS

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# STARTING WITH THE WHY?

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Why Have Some of Our Students Had a Negative Relationship with Education?

The Pedagogy has failed them.

- We can not teach our students the way we were taught

PEDAGOGY – Teaching Children

ANDRAGOGY – Teaching Adults

- Adults need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their instruction.
  - Intentional and deliberate
- Experience (including mistakes) provides the basis for the learning activities.
  - Revision and workshop
- Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance and impact to their job or personal life.
  - Culturally and socially relevant texts
- Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented. (Kearsley, 2010)
  - Student centered groups work instead of lecturing

## Cultural Relevance

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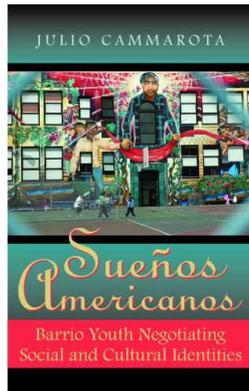
- Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance and impact to their job or personal life.

Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented.

Choose texts which the students can relate to culturally, socially, and that address the students' experience

## Situational context of a learner

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What are the socio-political factors that affect your students' learning?

Family

Work

Education

Race

Gender

## Family

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Familial vs Individualistic

Multiple Earner Family

Latino Youth as the Critical Safety Net

Reciprocity

Topic: Consider the role of Latino youth in their respective families. What is your role in your family?

What are the expectations and responsibilities placed on you? How does this compare to any of the characters we have read about this semester? If your experience does not compare to any of the readings, discuss its uniqueness. In an ideal world what would you like your family role to be?

# Work

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Do students have a job that is supportive of their education

- Fast Food Work
- Retail

The “Flexible” Schedule



# Education

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Apathy

- Institutional Apathy creates Student Apathy
  - If you don't care about your students your students will not care about your class

Racism

- Has the institution made assumptions about your students based on their race or ethnicity?
- Were expectations lowered based on your students' race?

Individualism

- Were successful students rewarded with even more attention while students who struggled were ignored?

Topic: Considering the texts we have read in class and the film *Precious Knowledge*, do you believe offering Ethnic Studies in High School, is an effective and appropriate way to engage Latina/o students?

# Race and gender

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How are students perceived based on race and gender

- 1970-1990 Latino men outnumbered Latina women in college
- Today Latinas outnumber men
  - Women's movement towards equality
  - Men of color are criminalized
  - Some Educators are literally afraid to deal and interact with young men of color but are more willing to work with young women of color

# The Self-Study of the Situational Context of a Learner

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Throughout the semester we have been studying the socio-political factors affecting students in Julio Cammarota's book *Suenos Americanos*. Now it is time to examine how these socio-political factors affect you. In a 3-7 page essay examine how your life is or has been affected by the following socio-political factors:

Family

Work

Education

Race

Gender

Then, offer solutions or a plan of action that you can enact to ensure that you will be successful in reaching your personal goals.

## End result (Student Voice)

Many have said that history is likely to repeat itself. For example, I was raised by a single mother and today I am raising my son as a single mother. I ask myself, how can I break certain patterns in my family that are linked to a past of poverty and create a future of financial independence, educational, and career opportunities? As a survivor in a drive by shooting, I have learned to receive each new day with a sense of gratitude and faith that I was given a second chance to fulfill my life's purpose. Leaving behind the darkest stages of my adolescent years, I have made amends with my past as I try to move forward with my life, that is my son whom is my pride and joy. In life we make daily choices that impact the rest of our lives. Looking back at my life's decisions, I smile when I remember the carefree, energetic, and fearless little girl with a spirit like that of a fire-cracker. In those days I took many things for granted. It did not matter that my father was absent, nor that I sometimes had to stay alone with my older sister in the house when my mother had to work night shifts. Today I understand that my decisions and actions were influenced by the socio-political factors in my environment, including family, education, work, race and gender, nevertheless, today these same circumstances have also shaped my strong sense of character and determination to define for myself the rest of my life's journey.