



Contextualizing College ESL Classroom Praxis: A Participatory Approach to Effective Instruction (Language, Culture, and Teaching Series)

Laurence N Berlin

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Contextualizing College ESL Classroom Praxis: A Participatory Approach to Effective Instruction provides pre-service and in-service teachers with a model for engaging in effective instruction with the variety of students encountered in college English as a second language or foreign language classrooms. Along with the model, the text is designed to help readers develop the tools to use it within a participatory approach. This approach, based on the principles of Paulo Freire's critical pedagogy, is combined with multicultural education and the general tenets of a communicative approach to language teaching. From the philosophical to the theoretical to the practical, these strands are combined into a cohesive whole.

The underlying premise is that the best way to develop an understanding of a participatory approach is to engage in it. Throughout the book, readers are asked to apply *problem-posing*--a learning process that begins with naming issues, reflecting on them and possible solutions, and acting upon one's ideas. Questions addressed include:

- *What is the nature of process over product?
- *Is a new definition of effective instruction necessary?
- *What are the factors that can affect second language acquisition?
- *What do teachers believe about effective language instruction?
- *What do students believe about effective language instruction?
- *What makes pedagogy effective?
- *How do teachers and students relate in the classroom?
- *What does instruction mean for students?
- *How can effective praxis be adapted to various contexts?

Each chapter includes **Pre-Reading Questions**, **Post-Reading Questions**, a topic for a **Reflective Journal**, and **Follow-Up Activities**. These provide opportunities to enhance comprehension of the material, to co-construct new knowledge with classmates, and to review personal beliefs and ideas in an effort to modify or reinforce them in one's own developing model for effective language instruction.

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