

Reflecting About Our Teaching and Professional Development

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What we will discuss today

- Reflective questioning
- Models of reflection
- Personal attitudes about reflection
- Reflective activities

Why is it important to reflect on our teaching?

1.

2.

Why is it important to reflect on our teaching?

- Gain deeper understanding of my teaching styles, teaching beliefs, and teaching identities
- Better understand my role as a teacher
- Understand my reasons for teaching
- Increase awareness of myself
- Cultivate ethical behavior in my students and myself
- Refine instructional practice and assessment skills
- Design instruction that works
- Improve my teaching

Why is it important to reflect on our professional development?

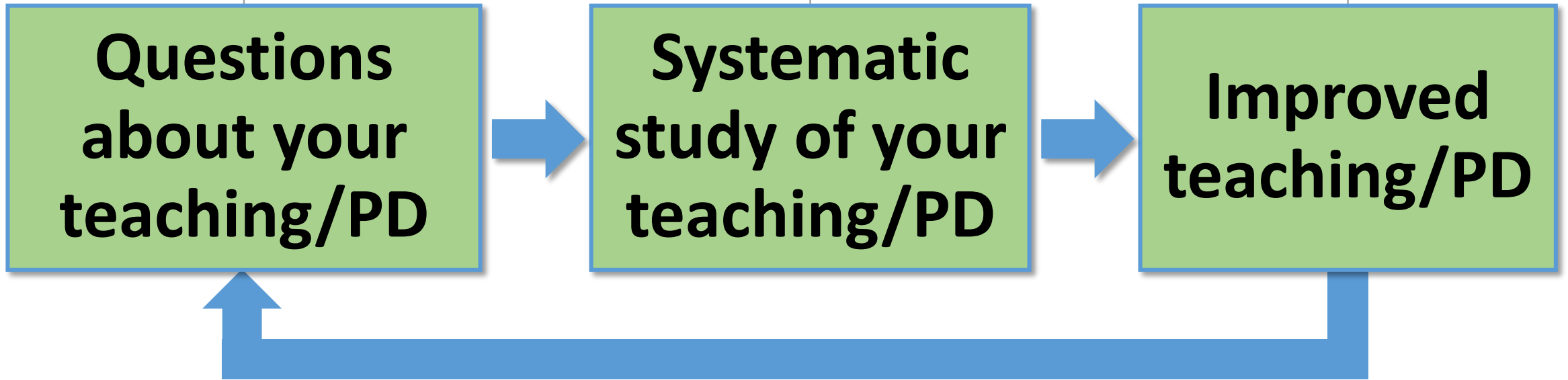
- 1.

- 2.

Why is it important to reflect on our professional development?

- Design instruction that works
- Understand how my teaching impacts students' learning
- Implement new knowledge and skills in my own teaching
- Share new knowledge and skills with my colleagues
- Improve my teaching
- Create a professional development plan

Reflection



BASIC reflective questions about my teaching

What am I doing in the classroom?

Why am I doing it?

How effective is my teaching?

How are students responding to my teaching?

How can I improve my teaching?

BASIC reflective questions about my professional development

How am I pursuing professional development?

Why am I doing it?

How does my professional development affect my teaching?

How can I improve my professional development?

DEEPER reflective questions about my teaching

How can I increase class participation?

Why did so many students do poorly/well on the last exam?

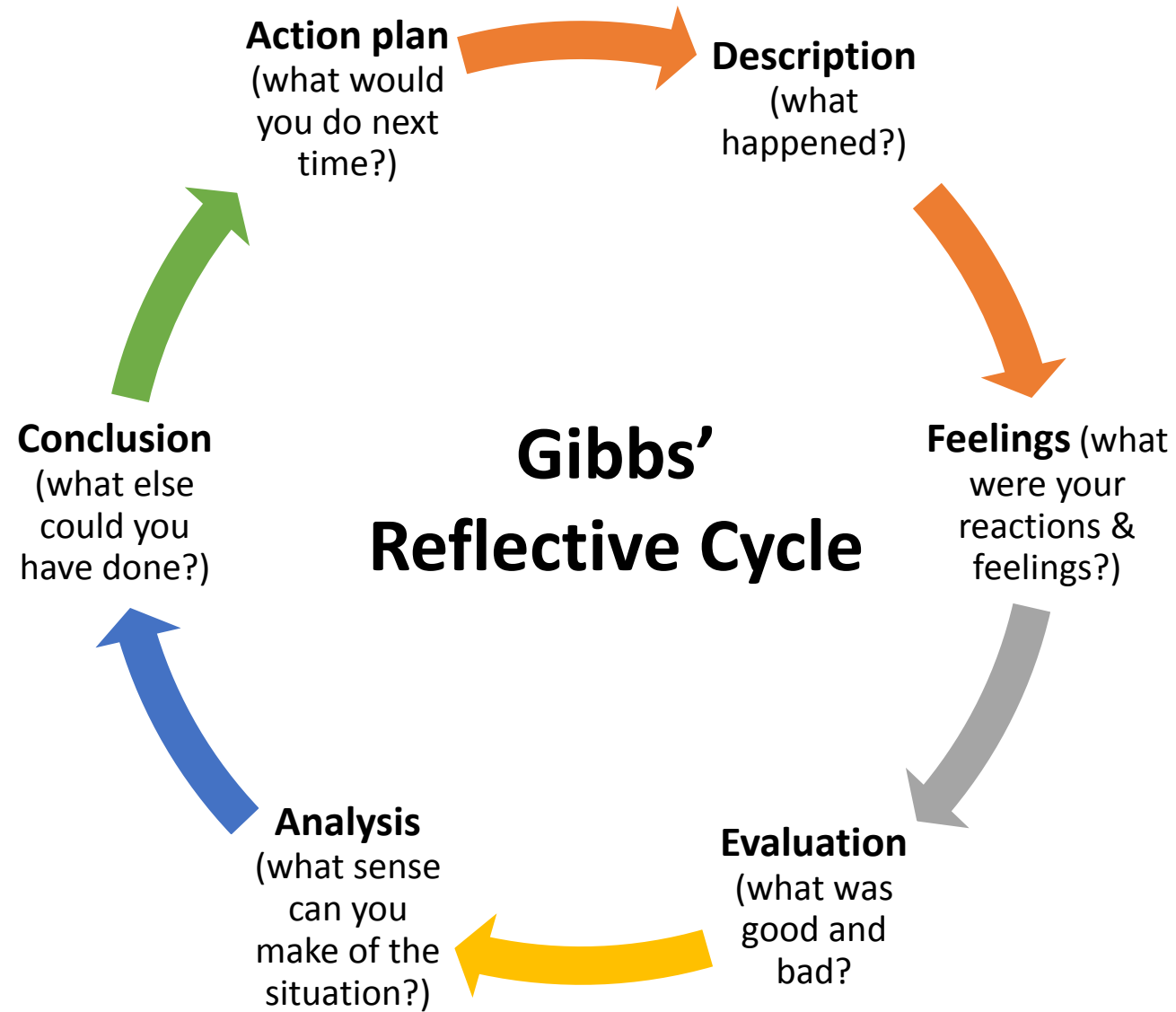
Class went especially well today. What made the difference?

Is the amount and level of reading/homework in this course appropriate for my students?

My students don't seem very interested in the material I'm teaching. Is there anything I can do to make class more engaging?

The cycle of reflective practice

- Metacognition – experiences, actions, and decisions during teaching
- Problem identification – defining moment in time
- Observation and analysis – reviewing/ reflecting on the experience
- Reconceptualization – concluding/ learning from the experience
- Experimentation – planning/ trying out what you learned



Create your own model of reflection

Activity #1 – pairs

1. What you teach (subject, content)
2. How you teach (methods, strategies, activities, assessments)
3. How you interact with your students (formally, informally)

Five useful teaching attitudes

1. Demonstrating caring and kindness
2. Sharing responsibility
3. Sensitively accepting diversity
4. Fostering individualized instruction
5. Encouraging creativity

Personal orientations toward reflection

Open-mindedness

Responsibility

Whole-heartedness

Open-mindedness

Active desire to listen to more sides than one;
give full attention to alternative possibilities;
recognize the possibility of error even in
beliefs that are dearest to us

Continually examining the rationales that
underlie what is taken as natural and right....

Identify and accept your own (and others')
strengths and weaknesses





Careful consideration of the consequences to which an action leads

Reflection about the unexpected outcomes of teaching

Thinking about at least three kinds of consequences of your teaching

Personal consequences – effects of your teaching on student self-concepts

Academic consequences – effects of your teaching on students' intellectual development

Social and political consequences – projected effects of your teaching on the life chances of various students

Whole-heartedness

Regularly examine your own assumptions and beliefs and the results of your actions, and approach all situations with the attitude that you can learn something new.



Elements of a teaching philosophy

Concise, persuasive, concrete explanation of your beliefs, attitudes, values toward teaching and learning

- Aspirations/goals/objectives (for you and for your students)
- Teaching strategies and methods to reach goals/objectives
- Assessing student understanding
- How you create an inclusive classroom
- Why teaching is important to you
- Ways you grow and change (how will you improve your teaching?)
- How you collaborate with others
- Beliefs, theories, methods that define your successful teaching
- How you maintain positive relationships with students and colleagues

How would you rate yourself on Dewey's key attitudes?

Activity #2	Not at all				All the time
Open-mindedness	1	2	3	4	5
Responsibility	1	2	3	4	5
Whole-heartedness	1	2	3	4	5

Reflective teaching and professional development strategies

Handout #1

How reflecting on my teaching impacts my students

- Allows students to work at their own pace
- Relates your teaching to everyday situations
- Corrects students without wounding them
- Has a good knowledge base of my subject
- Builds up students' confidence
- Is a good classroom manager
- IS REFLECTIVE

How professional development impacts my teaching

- Being prepared – what shall I teach?
Spend time on class preparation
- Understanding my students – how do students learn best?
Think before you teach
- Organizing my teaching – how shall I teach?
Prepare contingency plans
- Reflecting – was the lesson a success?
Record personal observations
- Implementing – notations in future classes/courses

Reflection Activity

Understanding Your Self

Challenges of reflection

- New insights and skills may inhibit teaching
- Collaborating and disclosing “problems” may be uncomfortable
- Others (or you) may see improvement efforts as sign of weakness

Benefits of reflection

- Helps make teaching enjoyable and intellectually satisfying
- Helps answer questions
- Reduces anxiety
- Source of renewal
- Overcome burnout with new ideas
- Opportunity for learning
- Collaboration breaks down isolation of typical classroom

Reference and resources

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