Reflection: Reflective Practices

When Phil Bossert asked me to join his Hawaii Education Resource Network team for a technology boot camp last summer, we looked for ways to create energy for keeping the community alive after the summer workshop. My role became a "reflective moment," stopping into groups across campus and asking them to practice reflecting on what they were doing and learning in the archive. The "brain hat" and the cards in my carpenter's belt meant that they knew I was coming. Here are the cards without the colors or the flipside format. Enjoy and email me with your own.

Heartfelt
We are not human creatures living in a spiritual world,
We are spiritual creatures living in a human world.
--Teilhard de Chardin, Jesuit priest

Reflective Practice
Speak from the heart - "I believe...
Share your vision - "I hope ... I dream
Sprinkle your communication with snippets of everyday life: "The weather today promised gray. ...My friend Sam stopped by ..., I knew it was going to be a good day when ...

Home Grown
For the moment at least, we scattered souls
have become an electronically linked virtual community.
--Mitchell writing in City of Bits

Reflective Practice
Build a front porch where you sit and rock, sharing your thoughts, watching the life of the community: "From where I sit ... I come from ... Invite others to come up and "set a spell" "I'd like to know what you think ... "Can you help me along here ...

Third Eyes
The problem with society is that it lacks "third places" -
places which exist solely to support spontaneous interaction.
--Ray Oldenburg, The Great Good Place

Reflective Practice
Become a regular: "Just saying hello . . . "Thought you all might enjoy this . . . Be playful and spontaneous: "Here's a crazy thought . . . "Just heard a . . . Drop in at unusual and surprising times: "Couldn't sleep, so . . . "The sun is just coming up here . . .

The Right to Relate
Virtual communities require an act of imagination to use and
what must be imagined is the idea of community itself.
--Marc Smith

Reflective Practice
Sketch your vision for how to work together: "Could you teach me about . . . "I'm thinking we could partner to create an information collection . . . "How about forming a problem solving team . . "I'm on a quest, want to join in . . ."

Define and Conquer
We are one, after all, you and I
together we suffer, together we exist, and forever
will recreate one another.
--Teilhard de Chardin, Jesuit priest

Reflective Practice
Notice and label a common experience: "Something similar happened to me. . . Thank a person when their thinking triggered an insight for you: "Your experience has helped me realize . . . Acknowledge even when you can't explain: "I can't stop thinking about. . .

Insights
To be a professional is to reach outside oneself;
constantly reflecting on how students learn and
trying to communicate this knowing to others.
--Patty Rourke, LabNet teacher

Reflective Practice
Introduce us to your students: "You know Charley by now, well today . . . Capture one learning moment a week: "Once Louis started webbing his ideas . . Share your own adventure in teaching: "I was just sure . . ., but . . . "

Retrospectives
A reflective dialogue usually begins
with a trigger message that engages the author's self,
is non-judgmental and invites inquiry.
--DiMauro and Gal, 1993

Reflective Practice
Develop the habit of thinking out loud: "I've been wondering about . . .
Identify where you are in the process of thinking: "I've been trying this
out . . . Let people know how they can help: "I would really appreciate
. . . What I think I need next . . .

Foresight
If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the person
who has so much as to be out of danger?
--Thomas Henry Huxley, 1877

Reflective Practice
Use KWL when you start a project to ask for assistance: Knowledge:
What I think I know. . . What I think I need to know. . . Learning to
come: What I want to learn to accomplish my goal . . .

Hindsight
When practitioners respond to the
"indeterminate zone of practice"
they remake a part of their practice world.
--Donald Schon, The Reflective Practitioner

Reflective Practice
Tell a story about a situation which puzzles you: "It was the beginning
of. . . Faithfully describe the situation, without comment: "Jon worked
for 5 minutes, then Ask others to reflect on what they "see"

Perspectives
Social relations genetically underlie all higher functions,
They depend on the social negotiation of meaning
to refine and elevate thought.
--Lev Vygotsksy, 1981

Reflective Practice
Ask specific people to respond: "Joan, I'd like to hear your take on this
. . . Start a debate: "Could someone take a different side on this

issue? State a strong position and ask for support, refutation or parody.

Stories Lives Tell
It takes two to speak the truth - one to speak,
and the other to hear.
--Henry David Thoreau, 1849

Reflective Practice
Tell a story, state an idea or ask a question.
Answer these questions and ask others to add their responses:
"What rings true for you in this?"
"What makes you uneasy?"
"What do you hear between the lines?"

Knowsense
Consciousness means the constant search to complete the incomplete
-
to construct the real through naming our lived worlds and
through the naming,
transform those worlds.
--Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed, 1970

Reflective Practice
Talk about what you don't know:
Identify the topic, and list all the questions you have, all the things
you think you don't know and and ask people to add to your list.
Tackle the list together - collect ideas, answers and references.