

## Follow-up Discussion

Professional Development Monthly Advisor and Planner (PDMAP)

# Critical Thinking

June 2010

### Discussion Questions:

1. Which resources from the Critical Thinking PD MAP did you read?
2. Many adult learners need to “learn how to learn” while they are learning language and content. What is meant by “learning how to learn” and how can instructors teach learners how to learn?
3. To be successful on GED tests, individuals must analyze information, evaluate it and make inferences, deductions and judgments. Other than exercises in GED preparation textbooks, what are some activities that you do to assist learners in developing these skills?
4. According to Van Duzer and Cunningham Florez in the *Critical Literacy for Adult English Language Learners* article, learners need to develop skills that will allow them to go beyond decoding letters and words and become “critical consumers” of information. A suggested strategy for helping learners develop critical literacy skills is asking them to compare their own experience and values to those represented in what they are reading or to what they are listening. Share an experience you have had using this strategy or a different strategy or activity you have used with learners to help them develop critical literacy skills.
5. Many of the learners with whom we work, especially English language learners, have experience with an educational system that values rote memorization of information and may have some discomfort being in a learner-centered classroom that encourages and values critical thinking. How can teachers make learners feel more comfortable with this new educational environment and help them see the value of developing critical thinking skills?
6. Several articles in the PD MAP focus on developing critical thinking skills through instruction that uses a problem-positing technique. What are your experiences using problem-based learning with your adults and what have been the results?

7. It is helpful for instructors to think critically about their instruction. As part of your professional development, how do you incorporate reflective practice such as self-reflection using a journal or other self-reflection tool, action research or participation in a teacher development group? What are the benefits of incorporating reflective practice?
8. Many of the resources in the PD MAP describe strategies and activities that you can use in your classroom to promote critical thinking skills. Some of these are: debate, problem-solving, role play, evaluate sources of information, etc. Which of these strategies was new to you and one you plan to try with your learners?
9. Of all the ideas that we have discussed today, what is the most important idea you can take with you to your classroom or your program?