

Principles, Innovations, Hopes: Dialogue Education™ in Haiti

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After another successful Dialogue Education™ event in Port-au-Prince, the teachers – Claudia Laure, Peter Noteboom, and Marie Paulette Payen – reflected on their current experience of Dialogue Education™ in Haiti. The reflections are captured below under the headings “Principles”, “Innovations” and “Hopes”.



Principles

The first principle is **dialogue**. This is so important because it builds relationships, even intimacy, where there has traditionally been a gap between teachers and students. These **good relationships** are the best predictor of good results, a productive exchange of ideas, and learning. The **respect** that is demonstrated in these relationships creates an environment where people do not feel like they will be let down, or put down. This is where **congruence** between what we say and how we act and communicate becomes so very critical.

Innovations

The Seven Steps of Design help to innovate. No matter what the situation, we are constantly asking who is coming, why we are doing it, what we are offering. During the learning event itself, we have found that sharing **examples**, standards, and templates helps enormously in the completion of learning tasks. No matter what the task is, we always show a **model** of what we are doing: modeling and sharing clear standards and expectations help the performance immensely. **Songs** too, have become important memory-aids in the practice and use of new ideas and skills.

Hopes

We dream of seeing the application of Dialogue Education™ in the decision-making areas of **schools, families, churches**. In the long-term, the **whole Haitian society** can benefit, but we need to start with families so the work takes us most frequently to schools to work with teachers, parent groups, and children. We would like to see the changes that happen in a small group or course take place on a large scale in the whole country - especially **mutual respect**, the **application of the design steps** in all kinds of planning... always to assure that the **learning is for the learners**.

The practice of Dialogue Education™ has been steadily growing in Haiti. The *Centre pour l'apprentissage et la formation pour la transformation* (CAFT) is a licensed provider of Dialogue Education™ in Haiti, working with a wide range of clients and offering several courses per year in French and Creole. For more information on Dialogue Education™ courses and consulting services in Haiti, please contact joan@globalelearning.com, or caft.haiti@gmail.com.



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