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PROSPECT ARCHIVES AND CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

36th SUMMER INSTITUTE ON DESCRIPTIVE PROCESS

Bennington College, Vermont / July 27 to August 1, 2008

**USING DESCRIPTIVE PROCESS AND REFLECTIVE CONVERSATIONS
TO INFORM THE WORK OF TEACHING**

USING DESCRIPTIVE PROCESS TO GAIN ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING

**USING DESCRIPTIVE PROCESS TO CREATE POLITICAL GROUND
AND TO THINK ABOUT SCHOOL AS PUBLIC AND DEMOCRATIC SPACE,
SUPPORTING VARIETY, DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY**

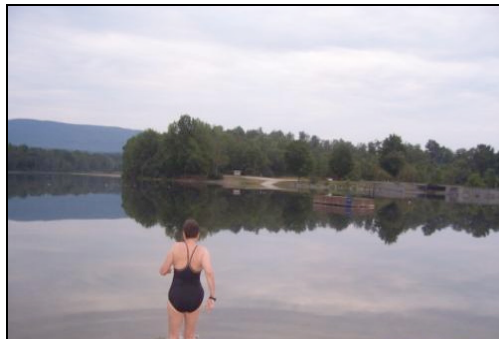


Photo: Louisa Cruz-Acosta



Photo: Bennington College

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The overall aim of this Institute is to explore the many ways in which children express their ideas of the world through activities, words, and works, and to consider the implications of this understanding for classroom practice, curriculum, school policy, and assessment. The basic content of this Institute is the Prospect Descriptive Processes and the unique perspective they provide for thinking about children and their work. Some of the issues central to this Institute are:

- What does it mean to take the time to look closely and describe?
- What does a school or classroom have to be in order that each child be recognized and heard?
- What of importance to children and their education is made visible through their works?
- What must we do to enable each child to be the agent of her/his own learning?

This residential Institute is a five-day workshop for parents, teachers, and other educators who wish to examine issues of teaching and learning through the perspective of the Prospect Descriptive Processes. To build the coherence of the Institute, **it is important that participants attend all five days, from 2:30 pm Sunday, July 27 to noon Friday, August 1.**

Observation and description of children and their works are central to this Institute. The context for our inquiry is formed both from our shared recollections of ourselves as learners and from reading about and discussing issues such as standards and values, school culture, race, and gender. We will use Prospect's Descriptive Processes to study individual children and the writing, drawing, painting, model making, talk, and other "works" they produce in their classrooms. A core of the work the group does together is describing the spanning collections found in the Prospect Archive of Children's Work. Participants are urged to bring collections of children's work with them. Also, if you are interested in doing a Descriptive Review of a Child or have a critical issue to discuss, there will be opportunities. Readings will be mailed to registered participants well before the start of the Institute.

The Institute is designed to serve "returnees" as well as first-time participants. Everyone will take part in Descriptive Reviews of the Child, Descriptive Reviews of Work, and Reflective Conversations. Those who are new to these processes will get to know them well. Participants who are more experienced, but not yet confident in the role of chairperson, will be asked to act as facilitators, helping presenters prepare and co-chairing groups. We also encourage groups from the same school to attend together. This enables schools to begin to use the Descriptive Processes as part of their ongoing work.

The Processes on which this work is based were developed at the Prospect Center. This Institute on Descriptive Process runs concurrently with the first week of the Institute on Descriptive Inquiry (a self-governing, collaborative study group, composed of educators and other experienced professionals, that has convened annually since 1978). Since meeting rooms and dorms will be nearby, participants of both groups will have the opportunity to share informal talk, take part in descriptive inquiry sessions as well as in journal writing, drawing, and other evening work sessions. Social events are also planned.

LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The Institute is a residential Institute housed at Bennington College, Bennington, VT. Rooms are double occupancy; bathroom facilities are shared. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served at the College dining hall.

FACULTY

The faculty of this Institute are educators who are deeply knowledgeable about Prospect's Descriptive Processes and ways of thinking about educational practices and issues.

FEES AND CREDITS

The Institute fee is \$625. This fee includes all program costs as well as room and board at Bennington College. A limited number of scholarships is available. Please contact Cecelia Traugh via email (Cecelia.traugh@liu.edu) or by phone (718-488-1088 work or 914-964-8219 home) for more information on scholarship aid.

Prospect's top priority is to expand and diversify participation in all its institutes and conferences. We want more educators speaking out for democratic values and for schools responsive to children. Diversity of all kinds immeasurably strengthens that message.

Two credits can be earned through The Graduate School, Antioch New England. These credits cost an additional \$300. Please indicate on your enrollment form if you are interested in credits.

Prospect Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its admissions policies or practices.

If you have further questions about the Prospect Center, please check out our website at www.prospectcenter.org.

APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT

The Institute on Descriptive Process can accommodate a minimum of 15 participants, who will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We urge you to respond as soon as possible. **A non-refundable fee of \$100 must be enclosed with the application form, and both must be submitted by May 15, 2007.** The balance of the fee is due upon acceptance to the Institute. (In the event of over- or under-enrollment, your fee will be returned.) Your acceptance notice will include further information about program specifics, schedules, and readings.

Please make your \$100 deposit check payable to Long Island University and send it with the enrollment form to: Marita Downes, School of Education, Long Island University, 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201-5372. You may also FAX your registration to: Marita Downes, 718-488-3472. Phone number is: 718-488-1378; e-mail address is: marita.downes@liu.edu

If you have any questions, please contact Cecelia Traugh via email (Cecelia.traugh@liu.edu) or by phone (718-488-1088 work or 914-964-8219 home).



PROSPECT SUMMER INSTITUTE ON DESCRIPTIVE PROCESS

July 27-August 1, 2008

PRE-ENROLLMENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Place of work: _____

Address: _____

Position: _____

Grade level, if a teacher: _____

Work phone: _____

I am interested in earning credits.

[] My registration fee of \$100 is enclosed. I understand that this application, with the non-refundable fee, reserves a place for me in Prospect's Summer Institute on Descriptive Process. In the event of over-enrollment or under-enrollment, my fee will be returned.

Please make your \$100 deposit check payable to Long Island University and send it with the enrollment form to: Marita Downes, School of Education, Long Island University, 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201-5372. You may also FAX your registration to: Marita Downes, 718-488-3472. Phone number is: 718-488-1378; e-mail address is: marita.downes@liu.edu

Is there a particular topic you would like us to consider at this Institute? Are you bringing materials—student writing, art, collections of work, or teacher records, materials for a Descriptive Review? Please name questions and/or describe briefly what you will bring:
