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Writing Prompt 1

Critical pedagogy: Wink-Freire Views

Joan Wink put together a book that explores not just the need of students, but the needs of teachers too. This book helped to understand the worries of teaching, and how to overcome them to become better teachers. Most of Wink ideas were influenced by Paulo Freire, who had a very fresh and different view about education. Three of Freire main ideas are found in this book: Reading the word and the world, the banking model of education and conscientization. Such ideology presented an education capable of name, think critically and act upon what was necessary. That is mainly what Freire professed, the idea of teaching as learning to act upon what the circumstances required.

Freire ideas about teaching certainly were some what unorthodox; however, they are, according to Wink, fundamental in Critical Pedagogy. First, let's talk about the idea of reading the word and the world; it represents the idea of understanding what one reads at first look. Though, it also represents the concepts behind the first reading. What Wink would say to be "I would have to find meaning for myself based on my own lived experiences. I do not believe that I can transmit my generated knowledge to you; however, I can share my story, and in the process, you can make your own connections based on your knowledge and experiences." (31).

During class, I exposed what I thought it was and I would ^{like to explain} ~~make a call on~~ that example. Let say one is a classroom; one has a kid who clearly does not pay attention in class, a student who is the problem student. At first look, one might say, "Oh this kid just do not want to learn. I

am not even going to waste my time trying to help this kid. He clearly does not want to learn.” Nevertheless, one as a teacher needs to see furthermore, and search for a better answer than just “he does not want to learn”. That is what reading the world means. It is to read what is behind, what is constantly changing. As everyone knows words are fix and mostly constant ideas. *Somewhat fixed* Although, the world is a continuous movement, transitions from one ideology to another, circumstances making other circumstances to happen.

Another of Freire ideas that was very influential in Wink’s book, the idea of the banking model of education. This idea was very similar to what one knew about traditional schooling. *Banking - Does the baking model include pastries? 😊* The (baking) model talked about the teacher giving information to the students, students would take it and save it until the teacher ask them to give it back, by testing. What one noticed in this model is the absence of students’ participation. Freire concept of teaching was to be active, to participate and make meaning of what was learned. The banking model did not provide this, but most of the teachers use it. For Freire, it was of vital importance for the students to take decision about their education. “The knowledge is assumed to be correct and politically neutral. Critical pedagogy questions not only the knowledge, but also the method of delivery.” (32). Furthermore, that the teachers saw of vital importance that the students did take action on their education. That for the teachers, education did not become like a hall pass, that you just pass on and do not care who take it or who do not take it. I found this idea so attractive, that concept Freire exposed about how teaching has to be fun and challenging at the same time.

Another concept of Freire, which was relatively unknown for must of us, was Conscientization. Such concept was unknown, even, to the dictionary. However, Freire and Wink defined it as good as they could. Conscientization is the idea of questioning others ideas. It *as well as ones own ideas* is understanding one’s ability to do more than just passing on a concept. It is the actions one has

to take to motivate the young minds. "Conscientization moves us from the passivity of 'yeah, but we can't do that' to the power of 'we gotta do the best we can where we are with what we've got'" (32). It's definition so wide and at the same time so specific. However, the best was to know if one has Concientization is when one start to notice than one is not just instructing but is doing a little more.

A classroom, ^{from perspective} in Freire's ideas, would be like a classroom in which the students have put hands on what is learning. A place, where they could connect what they learn and experiment to the big picture. Such classroom has to have a teacher that would challenge the students to think out of the box. This classroom would not be like a regular classroom at all. Here the students will find ways to learn but also to put into practice what has been learned. Besides that lesson work intrigue the students to question the reason why of the things.

Freire is an artist of education; I do not think there is another way to put it. Freire saw that to learn one must be disciplined. To learn, one must go further that ^{where} ~~what~~ one had gone. If one read just one book, now should read the double or triple. It is necessary to push oneself out of the comfort zone. However, a lecture without fun is like a cookie without milk. One cannot have one without the other. Once something becomes enjoyable, it becomes relative easy to understand and to learn.

One of the biggest concepts I liked from Freire was the idea of reading the word and the world. There was a quote that said "there is no possibility for teaching without learning. As well as there is not possibility of learning without teaching." (85). Meaning one needs to learn from what one is living to be able to teach. An example, math is a subject that everyone uses, right? However, if a teacher is teaching something about math the students would ask why we should learn about math is we do not use it. And as a teacher it become hard to illustrate such concepts,

awkward sentence

if one does not know how the environment that evolve the students is. to be able to teach, one must started by learning. This takes us to another concept; to be able to teach correctly, one must put oneself into the students' position, this way the teacher would have a better approach of concepts.

In conclusion, I found Wink's ideas refreshing. The concepts were not new but the style was. The idea of teaching using progressive methods had been investigated before. Although, Wink's ideas are more contemporary; besides, it takes education into a more personal level. Another thing that I loved about her was the choice of influences in her book. I think each author help her find a better way to define education, and what is not education. That is another thing that I learned, that sometime what we think is education, results to be not that exactly. Other than, I really liked to know a little more about Paulo Freire it was amazing, most of all for the story in page 88 about the fried egg. Definitely, it was another concept about questioning our world and to think out of the box.

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Deana,
nice essay! Good use
of examples to explain
different ideas! One
thing settle down second
semester, I have some
books about Freire you
might find interesting.
I really like you writing
style in this essay! I
can hear your authentic
"voice"!