

## CTLT's Spring Semester 2006 Teaching Tip for April 26

### The 3 Rs for Effective Teaching: Risks, Reflection and Renewal (Part 2)

#### INTRODUCTION

As an educator, a fundamental role that we must take on is that of learner. We must constantly strive to learn what works best for our students, what doesn't and where to go to learn more because, as you know, all aspects of teaching and learning are constantly changing - the tools, the students, the knowledge base or content, and even ourselves. Accomplishing this goal of perpetual improvement toward effective teaching requires the consideration of a different set of "3 Rs" - risk, reflection and renewal.

As we enter the last weeks of the semester, the Center wanted to provide some food for thought on three aspects of aspiring to become a more effective teacher called "The 3 Rs Toward Effective Teaching." Today is the second installment, or second "R," on reflection. Next week we'll conclude with the last (but not least) R, "renewal."

#### **REFLECTION**

In addition to the importance of allowing our students time to reflect on their learning, it's just as important that we take time to reflect on our learning and teaching. Moreover, finding methods to determine or assess your effectiveness is essential to accurately guide your decision-making toward increased student learning. Below are two links that describe ways to be a more reflective teacher and take steps to improve student learning based those reflections. As Tice mentions, it is a cyclical process toward continued improvement.

#### **The Getting of Wisdom: What Critically Reflective Teaching is and Why It's Important**

By Stephen Brookfield (From the book: *Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher*)

[http://www.nl.edu/academics/cas/ace/facultypapers/StephenBrookfield\\_Wisdom.cfm](http://www.nl.edu/academics/cas/ace/facultypapers/StephenBrookfield_Wisdom.cfm)

This is the first chapter of Brookfield's book, providing an overview and basis for critical reflection as a teacher. It's fairly long, but will offer some good starting points as well as let you decide if the other chapters deserve review.

#### **Reflective Teaching: Exploring Our Own Classroom Practice**

By Julie Tice, *Teacher, Trainer, Writer, British Council Lisbon*

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/think/methodology/reflection.shtml>

- Think, talk, read, act
- Reflective teaching is a cyclical process, because once you start to implement changes, then the reflective and evaluative cycle begins again.
- Questions to ask:
  - What are you doing?
  - Why are you doing it?
  - How effective is it?
  - How are the students responding?
  - How can you do it better?