

Leadership: Empowering Others

Empowerment is the process of supporting people to:

- 1. construct new meanings;**
- 2. exercise their freedom to choose new ways to responding to the world.**

Both components are assisted by:

- 1. being listened to;**
- 2. talking and expressing emotion about experiences.**

Dyad

What are your thoughts about the definition of empowerment? When have you felt powerful? When have you not?

Goals of the Support Group

- **Increase communication among teachers;**
- **Help teachers function more effectively, cooperatively and enthusiastically;**
- **Allow expression of feelings about successes and problems;**
- **Assist teachers in dealing with the stress, tension and frustration inherent in change;**
- **Enable them to have more attention for their own learning;**
- **Provide support for teachers to improve classroom instruction, relationships with colleagues, develop leadership, etc.**

Reflections on Educational Change Support Group: Read pages 1-12.

Small Group Discussion:

What were your own experiences leading a support group and how does this compare to the reading?

Qualities of a Good Question

- **There is no bias built into it;**
- **There isn't an answer built into it;**
- **It isn't answered by just *yes* or *no*;**
- **Will cause the person to look deep;**
- **Deals with a real issue – isn't superficial;**
- **Does not always have to deal with the issue or theme of the seminar;**
- **Should deal with issues that would hinder them or their clear thinking;**
- **Think about it for yourself. Is it hard to answer? How do you respond to it?**
- **Support group sessions help generate your next support group question;**