

Documenting Teaching: An Experimental Seminar Teachers College, Columbia University, Spring 2005

This exhibition provides several different entry points into [websites](#) produced as part of an experimental doctoral seminar offered in the department of Curriculum and Teaching at Teachers College (Spring 2005). Although the sites document teaching in contexts ranging from a preschool classroom to a twelfth grade social studies class, the pictures at right link to places in the sites where some similar elements can be found. These include videos of classroom activities, curriculum materials and student work, teachers' reflections, and glimpses of the perspectives of those inside and outside the classrooms.

In addition to these common elements, looking across these sites reveals a number of issues and questions that can be explored from a variety of angles:

Engagement – How can teachers engage students in learning in general? Engage students in studying key issues in different disciplines? Engage students in society outside their classrooms?

Culture and community – How can teachers develop classroom environments that enable and encourage students to develop and share their own ideas, work together respectfully, and do their best work?

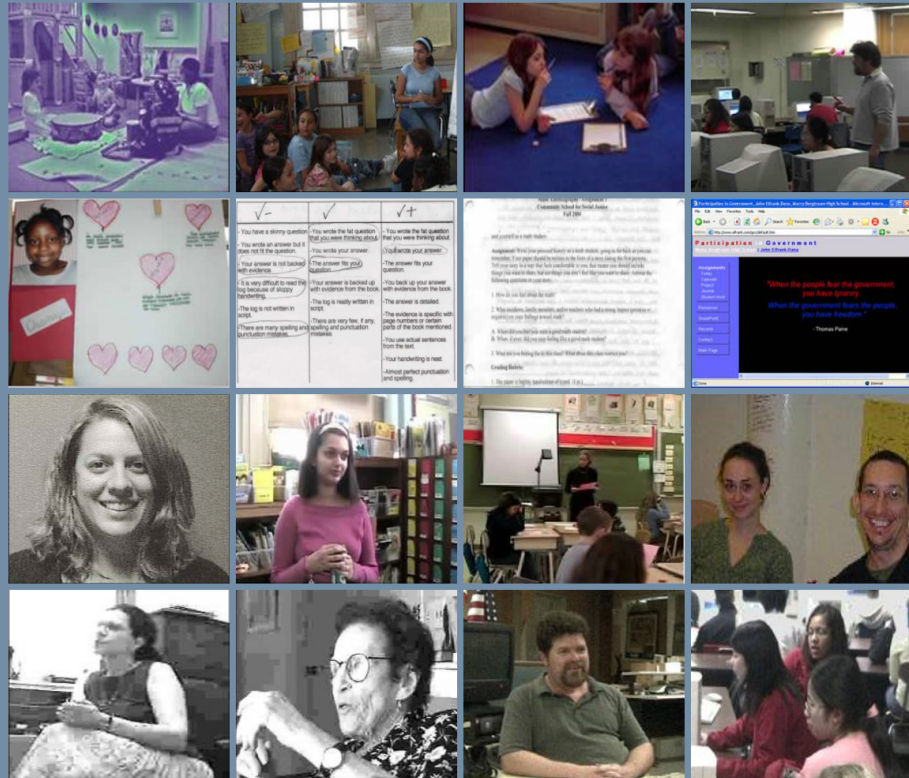
The role of the teacher – How can teachers provide support and direction and help students develop the independence and agency they need to succeed in the wider world?

Representation of teaching and learning – How can teachers and researchers develop realistic portrayals of teaching and learning that show both the struggles and successes that are integral parts of classroom life?

For more on the seminar and this approach to using multimedia to document teaching see the original [course description \(pdf\)](#), a [seminar overview \(pdf\)](#), a [documentation rubric \(pdf\)](#), and [excerpts of reflections \(pdf\)](#) throughout the spring semester from students and the instructor.

The seminar and websites described in this exhibition grow out of the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning ([CASTL](#)) and the [Quest Project](#) at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and work on [images of practice](#) at the National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools and Teaching (NCREST). This exhibition was designed and produced by [Thomas Hatch](#) and Pamela Gutman with the support and assistance of Deborah Anderson, Andrea Bednar-Thumm, Jeanne Iorio, Jeessun Jung, Debra Monesmith, Neelam Patel, Kate Spence, Rebecca Tatistcheff, and Laura Zadoff.

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