
Classrooms as learning communities: an appreciative inquiry

People have usually experienced some part of their dream. It's important to identify these elements:

- to remind ourselves that things are possible
- to remind ourselves of our own achievements
- to carry forward into the future the best parts of our past (we have more confidence in moving into the unknown when we carry with us parts of the known)

Take a few minutes to think of classrooms you have known, and occasions when those classrooms have operated to some degree as learning communities. *Choose the best experience you can.*

When you have identified that one occasion, do all you can to reconstruct it in your mind's eye - recall the room, the conditions, the people and so on.

Capture in concrete detail the things that made that experience possible.

Make some notes here on the following:

The occasion

What was happening which helped this be a learning community

How you make sense of this positive occasion

In pairs, discuss your different experiences, highlighting and valuing the differences and starting to think about what you can take forward from those experiences.

Try to capture some of what you have identified into a provocative proposition:

"Classrooms operate best as learning communities when ..."