Center for Collaborative Education Boston, MA

Postcards from the Edge An Introduction Tool

Background: This activity was originally developed by Larry Myatt and revised by Debbie Bambino, a National School Reform Faculty facilitator from Philadelphia, as an opportunity for groups to make connections at the beginning of a meeting or workshop.

- 1. Collect postcards from any and all sources, duplicates are fine.
- 2. Pass out one postcard randomly to every person in attendance.
- 3. Allow 2-3 minutes for each person to examine the postcard and determine what meaning it has for them at this particular time. You may have a focused question for them, such as "How is this postcard related to the current educational situation in your school?" but this is not necessary.
- 4. Ask individuals to share the postcard, and its meaning to them, with the group, time limit of 1-2 minutes. If the group is large, have smaller groups share (4-6 persons).
- 5. This activity is quite amazing for the synchronicity that occurs. Often it seems that the postcard is exactly the right image for the way a person is feeling or thinking at that moment. It does occasionally give rise to emotions and this should be expected and attended to by the group.