

popular education, n.

1. [Education for liberation] Syn. Popular education is essential in developing new leadership to build today's bottom-up movement for fundamental social change, justice and equality; see liberation, revolution, social and economic equality
2. [Accessible and relevant] - Syn. We begin by telling our stories, sharing and describing our lives, experiences, problems and how we feel about them.
3. [Interactive] - Syn. We learn by doing, participating in dialogue and activities that are fun, e.g., cultural arts such as drama, drawing, music, poetry and video.
4. [Education with an attitude] - Syn. We are not neutral-- through dialogue and reflection we are moved to act collectively to solve the problems of and with those at the bottom in our communities, those who are most oppressed, exploited and marginalized.
5. [Egalitarian] - Syn. We are equal, all of us have knowledge to share and teach and all of us are listeners and learners, creating new knowledge and relationships of trust as we build for our future.
6. [Historic] - Syn. We see our experience within history; indicating where we have come from and where we are going.
7. [Inclusive] - Syn. We see ourselves in relation to all people of different racial/ethnic groups and nationalities, social classes, gender and sexuality; and ages.
8. [Consciousness raising] - Syn. We critically analyze our experiences within history; explaining the immediate causes of our problems and understanding the deeper root causes in the structures of the economy, power and culture.
9. [Visionary] - Syn. We are hopeful, creating an optimistic vision of the community and global society we want for ourselves and our families.
10. [Strategic] - Syn. We are moved to collective action, developing a plan for short-term actions to address the immediate causes of our problems, and for long-term movement building to address the root causes of our problems.
11. [Involves the whole person] - Syn. We use our head for analysis, reflection and consciousness; our heart for feeling and vision; our feet for collective action for the short term and the long haul.

.....From Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide