Mid-Term Collaboration

Objective: This project affords students with an opportunity to exhibit their understanding of the *learning environment* books assigned by sharing powerful ideas with their colleagues and making conceptual hyperlinks to the work of others.

Assignment: Students in this class are reading four books. Although each book explores a different learning environment, there are similarities to be found among them. Each student will prepare a web page sharing his or her understanding of one or two aspects of that learning environment. In order to make conceptual connections between the ideas inherent in the distinct environment, each student will make actual hyperlinks between their work and the related work of their peers.

You will have approximately one week to create your text and one week to make links between your text and the other three groups.

To-Do List:

Week One
- Find the newsgroup posting with the name of the book you are reading and the words, "sign-up." For example *The Long Haul Sign-up*
- Reply to the posting and type your name next to an empty topic. You may not choose a topic already selected by someone else.
- Create a **simple**[1] web page (one page, no matter how long) on which you explain how the environment described in your book addresses the topic chosen by you in the newsgroup. For example, answer the question, "What should readers know about the physical environment of a Reggio Emilia school?"
    - Quotations and citations from the book may of course be used.
    - Useful charts, diagrams or illustrations may be used.
    - Assume that the reader knows nothing about the environment and ideas you address.
- The web page <u>must</u> contain the following elements:
    - A detailed explanation of the topic chosen
    - Each topic and subtopic should be labeled clearly, including definitions
    - Use white space before each heading
    - Place an anchor with a logical name before each heading
    - Create a Table of Contents at the top of your page
    - Each heading from your page must be listed in the Table of Contents
    - Each entry in the Table of Contents should be linked to the anchor in the text. In other words, clicking on an item in the TOC should jump the reader to that section of the text.
- Remember to place an email link on the page.
- Save the page with a simple name and upload it to the web.
- Post the URL for the page in the newsgroup.
- Name the subject of the posting in a way to indicate that your web page URL is inside.

Additional task
- Readers of *The Hundred Languages of Children, Thinking in Jazz and Rethinking High School* should collaboratively create a web page-based glossary of terms related to their book.

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[1] Black text on a white background with no graphics is just fine. Do not waste time with graphics and fancy layout. The content of the page is much more important.

- One reader of *The Long Haul* will have the job of creating a glossary for that book since there are more readers of *The Long Haul* than the other books.

Week Two
- Read the similar pages created by your peers reading other books. In other words, if your topic is *physical environment*, then read the three other discussions of physical environments.
- When you discover a similar concept, term, material, process or idea discussed in another person's work, make a link between your topic and the related idea on their page by doing the following:
    o Insert one of the icons found below in your page at the point where a link exists with something in someone else's page. It is OK to line several icons up if the idea is similar to one found in multiple books.
    o Create a link between the new icon and the anchor preceding the idea in the page of a classmate.
        ▪ You can grab the URL for the other page's anchor by clicking on that item in the Table of Contents and copying the URL.
- You may wish to include the icon legend in your page as well.
- Remember to save often and upload your newly enhanced web page.

Icons

Use either the labeled or unlabled icons in your page.

Legend

CLICK HERE TO GRAB THE ICONS FROM THE WEB

Assessment

Your web page will be evaluated on its content and the connections made to similar ideas. I will be looking for a thoughtful analysis and description of the powerful ideas learned from your chosen text. You are sharing your

newfound knowledge with an audience who hopes to learn from you. Professional standards for written communication are expected.