



## ***Process of Developing Ideological Clarity***

*Your ideology goes beyond the content that you teach and the methods that you use. It addresses the person you are, the people that you teach, and the society we share. In other words, you need to consider your values, beliefs, and background, how you have come to be who you are...*

### **Understanding Myself**

#### **Autobiography What brought me to teaching?**

- f* Why do I teach?
- f* How do I see myself in the work I do?
- f* What is my role in the local community?
- f* What are the core values that guide my teaching and community engagement?
- f* What are my biases?
- f* What are my blind spots?

### **Understanding the Social Forces in the School Community**

#### **Demographics patterns:**

- f* What proportion live together?
- f* What proportion live alone?
- f* What is the age distribution?
- f* What is the percentage of school-age children?
- f* What is the income distribution?
- f* What types of housing are available
- f* Where is housing located?

#### **Cultural characteristics:**

- f* What language/dialect is spoken?
- f* How are families organized (i.e. What is the father role, mother role, child role)?
- f* Are families nuclear or extended?
- f* What ties are there to relatives?
- f* What recreation do families prefer?

#### **Associational networks:**

- f* Are there religious cleavages? If so, what? Ethnic cleavages?
- f* Neighborhood cliques?
- f* Who marries whom?
- f* What kinds of barriers to association exist and what are they like?

#### **Patterns of influence:**

- f* What political systems exist?
- f* Are there power blocks of labor? Employers?
- f* Who are the businesspersons?
- f* Do many people feel powerless? Why?
- f* Are there non-citizens in the community?
- f* Have any civil rights been violated? When and how?
- f* Who are the influential people, groups, and associations in the community?

#### **Socio-attitudinal forces & social climate:**

- f* What are the different stereotypes that the various categories of people have of others?
- f* What self-concepts do the various categories of people have?

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- f* What is the social distance of the various categories of people? Who feels "top dog"; who feels "underdog"? What evidence leads to this feeling?
- f* What people or groups are perceived as agitators, radicals, troublemakers, etc. Why?