

Doing your own work: Starting from the Inside Out

Introduction - 5 minutes

- Who I am
- Individual introductions if the group is small enough (via chat if not?)
- The project I'm going to talk about was created from an impulse to mark 40 years of WGSS at UMD while the program is facing uncertainty.
 - This project represents an intersection of work that lets me thrive, and work to build a campus community where WGSS can thrive
- I'll follow-up with a description of the "method" I used to create this program, based on my own experience.
- Small group discussion to brainstorm a project or idea with feedback from others.

0:05

The Project - 15 minutes

- How this project worked
 - Conversation with library director, "do something in your own work"
 - The idea:
 - the year
 - the book
 - about the book, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writing by Radical Women of Color*. My experience with the book.
 - a different kind of book club
 - build in information literacy
 - These are all things that were very interesting to me.
 - Management that welcomes creativity and trusts that it's worth trying things
 - Leaders who recognize that playing to our strengths has the best results
 - The library bought books for the club members
- What happened
 - I planned some information literacy concept lessons I could insert into our meetings; conversation with Rachel
 - Publication, including dissemination - who gets heard; the book as a book - what's inside, how does it work, various editions of the book
 - primary source - how is this different than a look-back

- authority, first-person accounts
- how could you use a book like this in your schoolwork?
- publication - intellectual property and the history of the publications/editions
- I had five students sign up for the club - to read a 40 year old lesbian feminist book in their free time
- My intent was to have students choose the readings and maybe lead a discussion for the piece they chose, but it turned out that that was too much for them in an extra-curricular setting, so I chose instead.
- The discussions were really interesting. All of the students were from the Twin Cities area and this took place just a year after George Floyd was killed. They engaged with the material and each other.
- We rarely had all five students at one time.
- The Takeaway
 - "Special experiences"
 - Information Literacy
 - Don't always look at the numbers
- Questions???

0:20

Path of least resistance - 15 minutes

- This is a concept that grew out of creative work I've done in my personal life, I didn't think of this project that way until I reflected on it for this presentation
 - About the chorus - short version
 - Home - what I knew
 - Community Ed
 - Getting paid, they do the work of registration
 - what I thought would be fun (good challenge), writing
 - Performing
 - Homegrown, they did it for us
 - It got bigger, but more rewarding
 - I only took gigs that I wouldn't resent doing
 - 20 years is enough

- This method has become an integrated part of how I do things
- What is “path of least resistance”?
 - Basically, doing the least amount of work
 - Start with yourself - skills, knowledge, interests, energy, likes dislikes
 - If you are trying to do something that goes against that it will be much harder, using what you have gives you a boost
 - Choose something you enjoy
 - Look for easy openings
 - Collaborate with people you are already connected to
 - Avoid things that have no reward
 - Do the work according to your schedule
 - with the chorus I held rehearsals right after work because otherwise I would not have kept doing it. I got pushback at first, but eventually I got buy in on a large scale
 - Don't try to control the outcome
- Path of least resistance in this project included
 - A book I wanted to re-read
 - A time of day that worked with my schedule and my energy patterns
 - A small group of people having intense conversations, like in my usual life
 - My consistent interest in basing information literacy in everyday interactions with information (this is why I became a librarian)
 - Using a conference room in the library to meet - close by, not difficult to schedule

0:35

What do you want to do? - 10 minutes

Think/pair/share - groups of three

Use any context - work or personal life, organizations, etc.

- What would you like to start?
 - What do you already have to get started with?
 - What's the reward?
 - What is the easiest way you could start?
- What do you need?
- What are the barriers?

- How do you bypass those barriers? What are the alternatives?
- Where are the open doors?

0:45

Discussion/Q&A - 15 minutes

0:60