

Personal Reflection – May 20, 2022

Emergent Research

Some time ago, my good friend and mentor, Dr. Paula Berardinelli, came with Sunday supper, and found me in a *funk*. She asked: “What’s up? You are down!”

Then she smiled: “Jane Vella, you are an extravagant extrovert in search of an audience! Why not ask Valerie to propose ‘Conversations with Jane’?”

Valerie responded kindly and told the ‘Certified Network’ at their next meeting that I welcomed a call or a ZOOM at their convenience. Over the past few weeks eight individuals and I enjoyed a conversation. What fun!

As I reflected on these delightful conversations, remembering some unexpected and amazing results, I saw that we were doing ‘emergent research’. *The rules of the road: No agenda. No hierarchy. Respectful dialogue (of course!). And, no use of the Eight Design Steps. Wow!*

The conversations all ranged as we shared our stories and discovered what I now call *Emergen-sees*: what we saw together emerging in our rapidly developing lives. Themes emerged. As well as inevitable tears of joy and gratitude. Could this be a delightful category of qualitative evaluation?

How Do We Know We Know?

--Jane Vella