

## Creating the System: We Make the Road by Walking

by Jane Vella, PhD.

I have the honor of working with [Matthew Norman](#) from Barcelona, Spain – a colleague and [Certified Dialogue Education Practitioner](#) (CDEP). He is teaching pastors in his church community how to use Dialogue Education in designing and delivering sermons. This is important work! Part of the content for the course is about the system we call Dialogue Education:

- [Core Principles](#)
- [8 Steps of Design](#)
- [Learning Needs and Resources Assessment](#) (LNRA)
- [Learning Tasks](#)
- [Evaluation Indicators of learning, transfer and impact](#)

I suggested as part of the LNRA, that Matthew invite the pastors in his course to name and describe *the best sermon they ever gave* and to identify the things they did to make that sermon work so well. These factors from their experience could then be added to the content of Matthew's course.



I have often said *context is content*: What these pastors bring to learning the elements of Dialogue Education from their wide experience of preaching is vital! I see that each time we teach a course using Dialogue Education *we create the system by using it in a new context*. Learning tasks are then custom-designed for each particular group of people, in their unique situation. That's why we need to do a solid learning needs and resources assessment: to discover WHO needs WHAT and WHY. That is the context: the content we must learn thoroughly before we design and teach!

What an immense responsibility we carry into every classroom or workshop setting – *we make the road by walking*. Dialogue Education is an emerging system, evolving under our hands as we design and teach in new contexts. Please share your stories and indicators of learning, transfer and impact – we need to celebrate and learn, together.

I take immense delight in receiving learning designs, challenges, questions and celebrations. *Thank you* to all those who have been emailing me over the years! I continue to be here for all practitioners @ [janekvella@gmail.com](mailto:janekvella@gmail.com), and offer my time to you with great joy!

(Originally published on GLP blog December 11, 2018)