Module Chunking Activity

Searching for Alternative Organizational Metaphors

Context: You have been asked to design and teach a “Preparing Future Faculty” course to graduate students to prepare them for the classroom. Class meetings will be 90 minutes twice a week for 13 weeks.

Task: Take the provided cards and spread them out on table. Begin sorting them into the natural clusters and groups you recognize. At this point don’t worry about the number of groups, although it should be less than 10.

Once you have completed this preliminary sort, please re-cluster and sort your cards into using a **timeline organizational metaphor** similar to the following:

* Getting ready for the semester
* Starting the semester well
* Keeping the semester going well
* Ending the semester well
* After the course is over

Use the smaller post-it to add items you feel should be included. It is not necessary to use all provided items, keep a pile of discarded items (but be ready to explain your rationale for discarding them). You can use the big Post-It notes to title each group.

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Once you have completed this preliminary sort, please re-cluster and sort your cards into using a **perspectives organizational metaphor** similar to following:

* Teacher perspective
* Student perspective
* Department/School perspective
* Institutional perspective

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Once you have completed this preliminary sort, please re-cluster and sort your cards into using a **major principles organizational metaphor** similar to following:

* Pedagogy and How People Learn
* Classroom management
* Develop students skills
* Supporting students success
* Understanding institutional context (needs, requirements, beliefs…)

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Once you have completed this preliminary sort, please re-cluster and sort your cards into using an **essential question organizational metaphor** similar to following:

* How do people learn?
* What can the teacher’s do to create a good learning environment?
* What are the students’ role and responsibilities?
* How should my Department/School/Institutional context affect my choices?
* How do I take care of myself as a teacher?

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