

Humanizing First-Year Composition through Autoethnography

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Abstract:

Through an equity framework (Muhammad, 2020), I propose an additional Expos syllabus for the Writing Program that in part incorporates pillars from the Academic Master Plan, namely pillar III, Student Success. Universal Design for Learning (CAST; Fritztgerald, 2020; Pusateri, 2022) and Humanizing Pedagogy (Tsbery, Baker-Bell, Sanchez-Martin, hooks, Freire, Pacansky-Brock, M., Smedshammer, M., & Vincent-Layton, K) are valuable frameworks that privilege diversity, critical thinking, intellectual flexibility and dexterity. Creating assignments that foster critical consciousness (Freire) delivers results that our students demand. Consequently, teaching students how to craft responses in multiple genres shows that we believe in their inherent genius (Muhammad) and are a competitive, current writing program. Further the Academic Master Plan articulates the need for “evolving in our teaching practice, teaching approach and pedagogy” (Academic Master Plan, 2022). As such, the Writing Program evolves when it provides writing opportunities for students to leverage their linguistic identity in writing assignments.

Primary Stakeholders:

- Executive Director
- Directors
- Students

Key Steps/Activities:

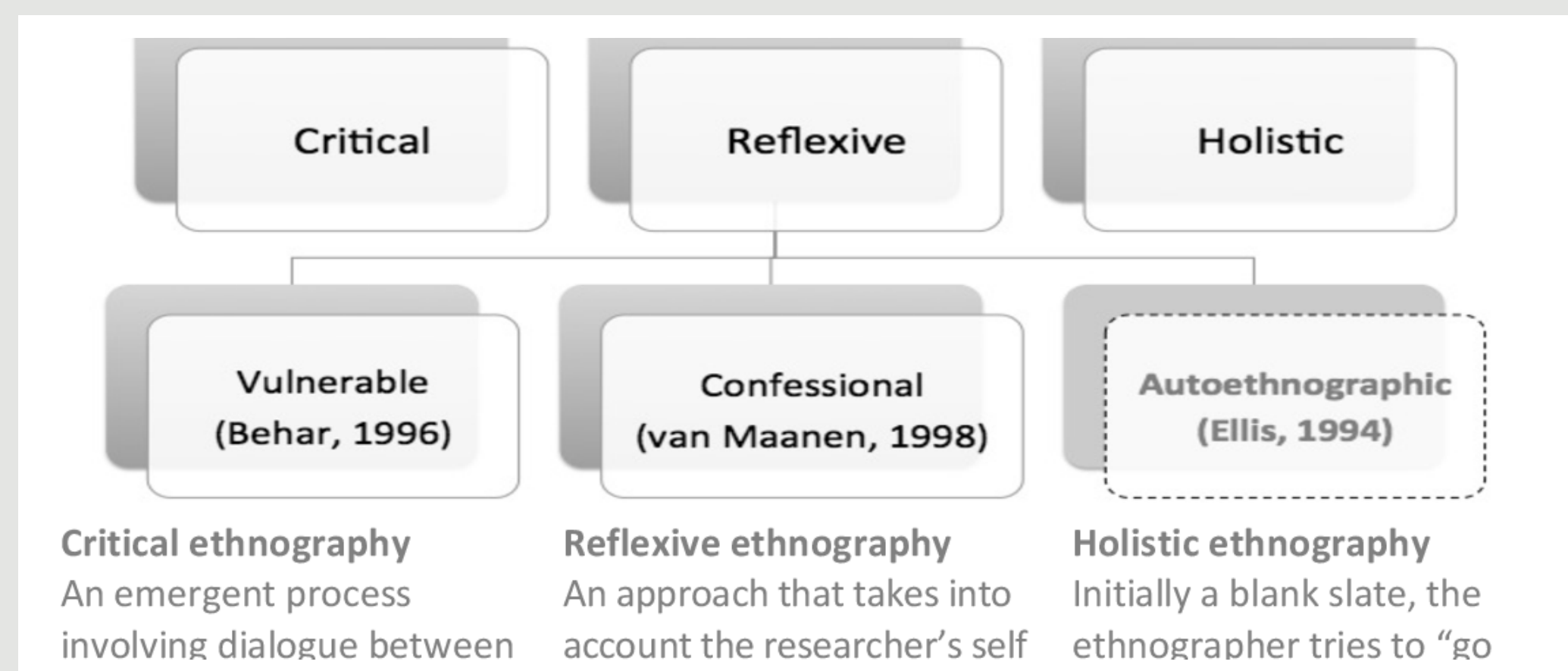
- Present rationale to Executive Director
- Present Literature Review on humanizing pedagogy, pedagogy of care and Universal Design to interested Writing Program members
- Offer instructional workshops to those who would like to teach this optional syllabus

Effectiveness Measures:

- Qualitative and quantitative data from students
- Qualitative and quantitative data from faculty
- Three Week Progress Check-In
- Midterm Folder Review
- Final Folder Review

Communication/Engagement:

- Periodic qualitative and quantitative survey of faculty and students
- Communicate through Canvas
- Communicate through email
- End-of-Semester Yab Fest where students and teachers can share their experience about the class



Proposed Timeline:

- August 2023 (Introduce to new faculty)
- September 2023 - December (Give Strategy Exchange Workshops)
- January 2024 (Open 1 new Writing section)

Current Status/Future Directions:

- Three humanizing education through autoethnography classes may be offered in the Writing Program Fall 2024.