

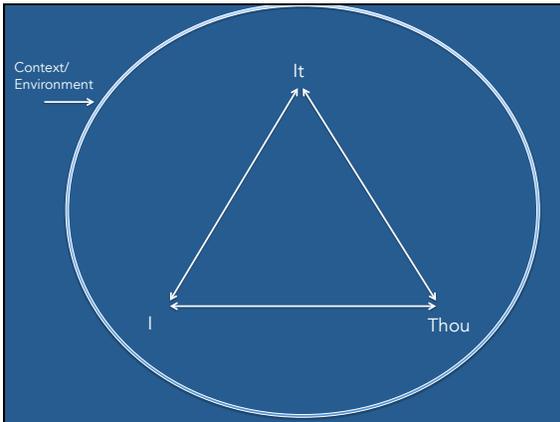
Building a
Professional/Relational
Learning Community
Part 1:

The Place of Context/
Environment in the I/Thou/It
Triangle



Principle 5
Creating a culture or community of collaborative inquiry is on-going, intentional work that supports and is supported by the environment we create.

To "create a culture," we consciously set up conditions aimed at helping participants feel comfortable taking risks and being vulnerable. The environment that supports the work of learning, and doing the work of learning together also supports the creation of the environment. Building a professional and relational collaborative learning community is both how we do our work and is an outcome of our work.



Brainstorming (in pairs)

- Think about the context/environment in your own setting.
- What are the words or phrases that come to mind?
 - Consider everything that you consider to be part of the context/environment of your setting
- Jot them down on a piece of paper

Try it Out

- Find the I/thou/It triangle in your binder (Tuesday tab)
- Go back to your brainstorming list and try to place those "features" of your environment on the context circle
- Think about:
 - *What is unchangeable?*
(put outside the circle)
 - *What seems unchangeable...but might be?*
(put on the circle)
 - *What is within your control?*
(put inside the circle)

How do others view their environments?

- Hang up your diagrams
- Gallery walk
 - Read closely at least those who were at your table
 - If time, read more!

"If I were to stand on one leg, like Hillel, and summarize my reading of centuries of wise reflection on what is required of an environment for it to facilitate the growth of its members, I would say this: people grow best where they continuously experience an ingenious blend of support and challenge; the rest is commentary."

(Robert Kegan, 1994, p. 42)

"Holding" environment

- Welcomes who are **right now**
- AND fosters your growth/development
- A space to take risks
- A space where you might feel off balance, "destabilized" or experience a "felt difficulty"
- A space where it is safe enough to do all of the above

“Holding” Environment

An “evolutionary
bridge” for growth