Donna Marie Giguere

Dr. Trevor Kinlock

Culturally Relevant Pedagogy & Assessment

28 January 2023

Week One Chapter Summary

In Chapter 1 of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, the author presents a problem and possible solution for consideration. The problem is there are oppressed people who have been subjugated by systemic abuse and dehumanization tactics. The possible solution is open dialog between the oppressed and those who honestly want to create freedom for all people. This begins with conscious acceptance of the situation and a willingness to embrace change through pedagogy through the construct of the oppressed.

There are several hindrances with solving this problem. First, the oppressed have a reluctance to change due to the unconscious fear of becoming the oppressors themselves. Additionally, there is a lack of agreement among the group from within and a tendency to condemn any missteps. On the other hand, the oppressors tend to be in a state of disbelief – unable to accept that they have been persecutors or own responsibility for perpetrating abuse. Attempts at restitution have amounted to ingenuine charity that has done nothing to elevate societal change.

Those who want to “transform the unjust order” need to realize that they cannot prescribe the solution nor lead the way. The change has to be led by the oppressed. The oppressed have to “reflect” and commit to change. The political power of the allies paired with the desire of the oppressed to become fully human will create the impetus for all humanity to be free.