

WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY NIEHS NATIONAL TRAINERS' EXCHANGE MARCH 2007

SESSION 10: Adult education principles and practices: Telling stories out of school (OAI)

Presenters: Salvatore Cali, Tippi Reed & Bill McVey

Workshop Comments

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES

People think and learn on different levels, including visual, written, oral, and workshop; it is important to evaluate or ask what is working with various individuals.

Storytelling hits provides link to learning on several levels of intelligence.

INCORPORATING AND SOLICITING PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN ADULT EDUCATION

During and after the powerpoint presentation, attendees listened to and related their own stories. The group interactively broke down the stories into components and identified conflict, theme, and moral. It was generally agreed that stories are one of many tools used to engage the audience. Attendees agreed that health and safety (H&S) stories, like popular entertainment such as movies and plays, bring greater relevance to the audience when there is a conflict between H&S and employer or personal pressure to take shortcuts. For example, a worker may perform unsafe work practices under pressure to finish a task by deadline. A story can reinforce that good H&S practices require good decisions in the face of everyday conflicts.