

## Case Study: Teaching the sociology of education

Anne works in a College of education in Zambia and teaches the sociology of education. She attended a workshop on TESSA, but when asked to plan a teaching session which drew on the TESSA OER she was not sure where to start. She turned to the 'Key resources' and working with a colleague, devised a plan.

There were 100 students in the group. She had to teach them about the work of 5 key sociologists. She divided the students into groups of 4. This meant there would be 25 groups. Each group would be allocated one sociologist. They were asked 4 questions:

- What is the name, nationality, and brief life history of the sociologist?
- What are the key ideas that they developed?
- What are the implications of these ideas for education?
- How could you use these ideas in your own teaching?

The groups focused on their allocated sociologist and used the text-book, the library, and the internet to find the information. Some also asked other academics or students from the year above – it was entirely up to them how they found the information. The requirement was that they answered all the questions and that each member of the group became equally expert. They had a week to do the work.

In the next session, the groups were re-organised. This time there were 20 groups of 5. Each group contained one expert on each sociologist. Each student had 15 mins to teach the rest of their group about their sociologist. After 15 mins, Anne rang a bell and they moved on to the next student, talking about a different sociologist. In the last 15 mins, they could ask each other questions to clarify the information. By the end, everyone was expert on one sociologist, but had learnt about the other 4 from their colleagues. Anne had spent her time supporting, listening and intervening if necessary. At the end she spent 15 mins summarising some of the main points.

On reflection she was very impressed by how resourceful the students were. She decided that the activity had been successful because

- Everyone had to be involved, so that they could teach the others
- A very supportive environment was created
- The focused questions ensured that the task was clear. The last question in particular was demanding but very relevant.