

**“CAN WE TALK?”**  
**IMPROVE YOUR DISCUSSION-LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

Dates: July 12-15, 2004

**SUMMER WORKSHOPS ON FACILITATING PRODUCTIVE  
CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS**

Director: Walter Parker, UW College of Education

Description: The institute features two successful methods for leading productive classroom discussions. Each is unique in perspective, approach, and aim. Each emphasizes an intellectual partnership among participants, dialogue, and shared inquiry into problems.

Rationale: Both democracy and understanding rely on discussion—democracy because forging public policy together is the basic labor of popular sovereignty, and understanding because dialogue is the basis of thinking. Talk is not cheap. Leading discussions well, however, is one of the “great difficult things” of teaching, as anyone knows who has tried and is honest.

Who should attend: Educators (K-12, community college and university), community activists, and others who believe in the power of dialogue. No prior discussion leader experience is required.

**The Workshops:**

**1. Leading Controversial Issues Discussions. Dates: July 12-13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Participants learn to lead discussions of controversial public issues in ways that deepen students’ understanding of the issue and promote informed decisions about what action to take. Critical thinking is nurtured along with civility and public decision making.

Instructor: Dr. Diana Hess, University of Wisconsin, renowned classroom discussion leader and trainer, author of ground-breaking research on successful classroom discussion leaders.

**2. Leading Socratic Seminars. Dates: July 14-15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Socratic Seminars engage students in lively, interpretive discussions of texts chosen for their richness in ideas, issues, and values. Reading comprehension is a central focus; critical thinking is promoted along with mind-stretching understandings of great works of literature, politics, art and science.

Instructor: Dr. Walter Parker, University of Washington, renowned classroom discussion leader and trainer, author of *Teaching Democracy*, and Director of Can We Talk?

- *Participants earn 12 clock hours for each workshop, and each lasts two days, 9-4.*
- *Participants are encouraged but not required to attend both workshops.*
- *Cost: \$199 each, plus \$30 nonrefundable registration fee. For registration information or to request a brochure, please call UW Extension at (206) 897-8939 or (800) 506-1325. Website: <http://www.extension.washington.edu/k12/talk.asp>*