



IMAGES OF PRACTICE



Grappling with Difference

Homework as a Place
Where Schools and Families Meet



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Grappling with Difference sets the stage for groups to talk about building community in their own settings. In this short video, an advisory group of students at Crossroads, a New York City middle school, carries out an exploration of homework. The students find out that their peers, teachers, and families hold varying opinions about what homework is for, and how it helps children learn. These subtly different opinions reflect the rich cultural diversity of American society. The students' research project embodies ways schools can create communities of trust, where families are able to express what they most want their children to learn, where participants learn to listen closely to each other, and where all members can contribute their strengths.

IMAGES OF PRACTICE is a collection of professional development videotapes from NCREST that are filmed in "learner-centered" classrooms. These tapes are intended, not as models for replication, but as resources for stimulating thinking about teaching and learning. Use them to spark questions, raise issues, and pose dilemmas for discussion among teachers, teacher educators, curriculum developers, parents, and policy makers.

NCREST (The National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching) is based at Teachers College, Columbia University, and was created to document, support, connect, and make lasting the many restructuring efforts going on throughout the nation.

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ORDERING INFORMATION

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