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English 327W

Remix Justification

 For this remix presentation, I wanted to present something that would affect the change I wanted to see in professional development for bilingual education. A part of my essay focuses on the issues within bilingual professional development. I wanted the research that I conducted, when presented to a wider audience in this remix presentation, to cause the audience to realize the need within bilingual education.

My second goal in this remix presentation was to make sure that the clear definition of bilingual education was presented to my audience. I found in the literature, which reflects the education system, that there is a lot of confusion about what constitutes bilingual education and what does not. I wanted to make sure that there was a clear definition so that the professional development created would serve the correct population.

Last, my third goal in this project was to make clear what overarching principles guide professional development, in the context of bilingual education. These professional development principles are important because they make the professional development effectual; they cause change in the classroom. Ineffectual professional development is not enacted, it is ignored deemed worthless by teachers because it does not center around their needs or engage them. By focusing on the four principles of effective professional development, this presentation can help the industry really focus in on what works so that money, time, and other resources are not wasted on ineffectual professional development.

For my audience, I first considered briefly the public sector, such as the government, educators, or administrators. I rejected these options though, even as they all have a role in education in general. However, this is a very specific field, so general educators and administrators may not care as much about it as their own needs. Also, some of the opposition to bilingual education I discovered in my research comes from the politicization of the field, and thus bringing in the government would not be as helpful. Finally, I recognized that the public sector would have to overcome a lot of obstacles, such as funding, public opinion, and the impetus to create or legislate a professional development program for bilingual education, before it would be able to provide the response that I would want to see-the development of quality professional development for bilingual education.

 However, by instead presenting this project to a group of industry leaders in professional development, I circumnavigated a lot of these issues. By presenting this as an economic opportunity for those already in the professional development industry, in competition with others in the room to reach the needs of this small market, an effectual bilingual education professional development program would develop. This professional development would be of high quality because each company represented would want for their model to be chosen by bilingual schools or programs in order that they would receive the economic gains from their investments. Then the program would have to be continuously improving as the company hones in on the need and provides a fulfilling product to maintain their current contracts and obtain new ones. This presentation wants to not only meet the current needs of the professional development in bilingual education, but to keep innovating solutions as more problems develop or future research highlights further needs.

I chose to present this information in a short powerpoint because of my audience for this presentation. The powerpoint enables the information to be presented to a wider audience, but it can also be matched with an advocate who is able to add additional information verbally, whether it be personal testimony or further research. This powerpoint is akin to the visual aid in a TED Talk, where information is presented for thought to a targeted audience.

Within my powerpoint, I divided my information into two sections. The first part introduces the audience to the field of bilingual education and the need it has for quality professional development. The second part describes the research that I identified in my paper about principles of effective professional development. It also discussed the team that enacts professional development. I felt that this was an important piece of information to include because two of my principles of effective professional development emphasize the teacher and the school. That means that the professional development must have the flexibility to account for the needs encompassed by those two groups. So, by emphasizing the team members and team nature of the professional development, the industry leaders are aware the collaborative nature in the production of their effective professional development model they are developing. The goal is to maintain fidelity to the overarching principles of professional development that I researched, while also enabling the industry leaders to be innovative in their practices. It also allows for future research to be integrated into my current principles, allowing for the conversation to continue on after I have left.