IDEOLOGICAL STANCES
MORAL AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
SESSION 2 – OCTOBER 3, 2014 – FLIPPED LESSON
LEARNING TARGET

- I can describe major ideological positions, I can identify my own ideology, and I can use this understanding to recognize, prevent and handle ideological conflicts.
Since we are not meeting face-to-face today, we agreed to do a “flipped lesson.”

Note: Since these slides are serving as the “lecture,” there will be more words than are supposed to be on a presentation slide.

Please carefully read and think about the content of this lesson.

- You will be drawing on this content, along with the previous and next sessions, for the first paper due.
- We will do some thinking around this when we are together.
Flipped teaching (or flipped classroom) is a form of blended learning which often uses technology to leverage the learning in a classroom so a teacher can spend more time interacting with students instead of lecturing. In flipped teaching, the learner first studies the topic by him/herself as homework. That way the learner uses in-class time for learning-based activities to apply the knowledge while the teacher is there to support the deeper thinking. This shifts the role of the classroom teacher to facilitate learning rather than to impart the initial lesson. Flipped teaching allows more hands-on time with the teacher to guide and assist students when they are assimilating information and creating new ideas.
DEFINING IDEOLOGY

- Major ideas about society, politics, and economics are organized into a structured but simple set of ideas called an IDEOLOGY.
- An ideology includes a criticism of the status quo, a vision of a better world, and a plan for achieving that vision.
- People often think of their own ideology as common sense. When our ideologies are challenged, people often react emotionally rather than rationally.
School leaders must have a general understanding of the ideological positions that they are likely to encounter.
MAJOR US IDEOLOGIES

- Conservatism
  - Business conservatism
  - Religious conservatism
  - Tea party movement
- Liberalism
  - New democrats
  - Progressive democrats
- Left-wing extremism
- Right-wing extremism

Now let’s look at each…
Business and religious conservatism constitute the core of the Republican Party.

- BUSINESS CONSERVATIVES believe human beings are motivated almost entirely by self-interest, especially their own economic interests, and the achievement of material well-being is the central goal of society. This individual interest is pursued by people competing freely in the marketplace. The economy flourishes because the market self-regulates the process. Therefore, government should not interfere in economic matters.

- They advocate policy measures that reduce the government’s influence over the economy.

- They seek to pursue their own interests with minimal government regulation.
Education

- These leaders push for higher standards, more accountability in schools, merit pay, and proficiency testing. These are policies designed to improve the economy.

- They also advocate for policies that turn education into a competitive market – vouchers, charter schools, monetary awards, publicity for high-achieving schools, and deregulation.

- They believe the US department of Education should be abolished.
The Religious Right is a largely Protestant, fundamentalist people. They believe Christians should make moral decisions based on religious teachings. The ideology is the idea that the US was once a Christian nation that has fallen into moral chaos because it has rebelled against God.

The solution is for Christians to wage a “cultural war” against the forces of moral corruption, winning the country back to God.
CONSERVATIVISM – RELIGIOUS CONSERVATIVISM

Education

- Christians must use the political system to restore traditional values – especially traditional family values, imposing them in law if need be.
- They support school choice and wish to abolish the US Department of Education as a way to strengthen parents' right to raise their children without interference.
- They support making school prayer constitutional and oppose most sex and drug education programs because they are inconsistent with Christian values. They reject “secular humanism” and support creationism or intelligent design in science courses.
Tea Party Patriots have a Libertarian ideology. They are suspicious of elites. They favor less government, lower taxes, and a greatly reduced national debt.

Education

Education is not high on their current policy agenda, but they would support reducing public spending on education.
Liberalism is the dominant ideology of the Democratic Party.

- NEW DEMOCRATS believe that race and gender identity politics alienates working-class citizens and largely ignores growing inequality in the US.
- They accept the soundness of capitalism, believe government has an important role to play, and are deeply concerned about equality issues.
LIBERALISM – NEW DEMOCRATS

Education

- They advocate for national and community service as a way for young people to strengthen their sense of brotherhood.
- They are interested in vocational and technical education programs as a way to stimulate economic growth.
- They support national curriculum standards and assessments because of their desire to improve education in order to spur the economy, and they support charter schools.
- They are committed to policies that seek to build a sense of national unity.
Progressive democrats (including former members of the green party) are suspicious of big business and large corporations. They advocate for reforms that enhance widespread participation by ordinary citizens in the political system and restricts the influence of Wall Street and large corporations.

They are concerned with equality and solidarity, especially with poor and minority groups.

Education

They would support public education, oppose privatization of education, and seek to advance equal opportunity for education for all children regardless of background.
LEFT-WING EXTREMISM

- Left-wing extremists oppose many major institutions and blame social problems on large corporations, the military, modern technology, or institution of private property. Their most typical solution is to withdraw from society and establish an ideal community - commune.

Education

- They are suspicious of public education, seeing it as an instrument of government and corporate propaganda.
- They support “free” schools that impose minimal restraints on teachers and students.
Left-wing extremists oppose many major institutions and blame social problems on racial, religious or ethnic minority groups. They are often very anti-government. They advocate for restricting the rights of minority groups, eliminating or severely controlling immigration, and reducing the power of the government or overthrowing it.

Their broad purpose is often to maintain or restore a mythical white Christian nation.
School leaders who keep up with what is going on in this area can anticipate when an ideological conflict is likely to arise. This allows them to be prepared.

During a conflict, we need to recognize our own ideological position. Otherwise we will see our own beliefs as self-evidently true and find understanding differing perspectives impossible.
ASSESSING YOUR OWN IDEOLOGICAL STANCE

- Of the ideologies described, for which two platforms would you be most likely to vote?
- For which two platforms would you be least likely to vote?
- The remaining ideologies (not the two you align with or the two the anger you) are the ones you would probably have a harder time understanding or relating to.
EDUCATION: PREVENTINGIDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS

- Most ideological conflicts relate to two things: Curriculum policy or religious issues.
- Make sure policies and procedures are clear and consistent with the law.
- Curriculum:
  - Provide opportunities for public and parent input
  - Deal quickly with policy violations
  - Be prepared to give a well-thought-out rationale for the materials
RECOGNIZING AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT

- Emotional intensity (when beliefs are challenged, people become distressed)
- Faulty communication patterns (misinterpretation of others’ meaning, ignoring views, calling names like “communist” or “religious nut,” feeling like the other person isn’t listening)
- Strenuous efforts are made to explain away inconsistencies or practical failings of their ideology.

When these occur, ask yourself,

“Is this an ideological argument? What ideologies are involved?”
HANDLING AN IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT

Some ideas…

- Discuss grievances so that school leaders feel empathy with opposing viewpoint
- Identify possible points of compromise
- Talk to schools/districts who have been in similar positions
WHEN WE ARE TOGETHER…

- Which ideologies are represented in the class?
- Which are most common?
- Are any missing?
- How do you explain the general ideological make-up of the class?
“THE ETHICS OF RIGHT VERSUS RIGHT” KIDDER
WHAT IS A DILEMMA?

- A situation that requires a choice between equally unfavorable or mutually exclusive options.
- A dilemma is a problem that seems to defy a satisfactory solution.
FEATURES OF A DILEMMA

- Choices among competing prized values
- Unattractive choices due to constraints
- Compromising
- Require managing, can’t be solved
When we are together, discuss...

- Identify the four Right versus Right types of dilemmas and discuss how you feel about them.
- Share with each other a moral dilemma you have encountered at work as an example of one of these types of dilemmas.

Truth versus Loyalty • Individual versus Community • Short Term versus Long Term • Justice versus Mercy