

### **Your Interactions in Seminar**

- I. **Describe your interaction during seminars in writing (3-4 minutes):** You might ask yourself these questions: do you like to reflect for a while and formulate your point or do you talk as a way of thinking? Do you like to respond to provocative comments or are you more likely to let others respond? Do you get new ideas in seminar? Do you talk at length or in short bursts? Is it easy to get a turn to talk? Do you like to listen to other people? If you have facilitated seminars, what are your concerns in that role? Please use "I" for this exercise and use this page.

A Guide to Teaching Effective Seminars: Conversation, Identity, and Power

**II. With a partner, look back over your writing and underline your metaphors (10 minutes).**

Metaphors are figures of speech that create a comparison by representing one thing in terms of another. Often these are abstract concepts described as concrete objects. The following list may help you identify the metaphors you have used. After underlining your metaphors, note in the margins which of these categories are most appropriate. You may have metaphors that do not fit these categories, so consider creating another category for those.

- *Seminar is a Building*: Do you write about building on ideas, creating a foundation, working together, reinforcing ideas?
- *Seminar is a Stream*: Do you write about jumping into the conversation, letting the conversation flow, moving along too quickly or slowly?
- *Seminar is a Journey*: Do you want to arrive at a goal, watch for getting off track, take note of tangents, stay on a path?
- *Seminar is a Machine*: Do you want to be engaged or do you shift gears? Do you want seminar to run smoothly?
- *Seminar is a Container*: Do you notice ideas bubbling up, do ideas bounce around, are students in and out of the conversation?
- *Seminar is a Game*: Do you toss out ideas or toss them around the room, catch ideas? Do you describe other seminar members as doing a good job or not?
- *Seminar is a Community*: Do you write about how everybody is connected? Do you help others or describe others helping? Do you share ideas?