

Dear Everybody,


When I look back over yesterday there are several moments that stand out in my mind. After lunch, yesterday, when Maria Rosaria showed us her student's mapping and reported that she had been able to sort out her problem with him, at least temporarily. The gap between her map and his was a yawning one, though, so big that you are left wondering where the territory actually lies.

Another striking thing, for me at least, was the idea that to get a inkling of the other's map is to somehow give up one's own map, to abdicate one's own position. At the height of the cold war some US negotiating guru suggested that at the start of each US-USSR summit meeting the US president should outline the Russian position in detail and Russian leader should do the same for the US position. The analyst suggested that this procedure would massively reduce what really had to be negotiated.

Can you, could you, use exercises like the blind walk with your students near the start of a course? The answer may depend on the age of the students, on the ethos of the school and on your own estimation of the effect such exercises can have. To my mind the blind walk has a lot to do with inter-personal intelligence.

There is much more to be said about the work done yesterday and you will have many things in mind as you read these lines. When you have finished reading, can I ask you to turn to some one near you and find out what comes back to their mind when they think about what we did yesterday.

Yours,


Mario.