



City Tech
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Poster Session

Narrative Self-Disclosure through Written Composition by Vietnamese Refugees

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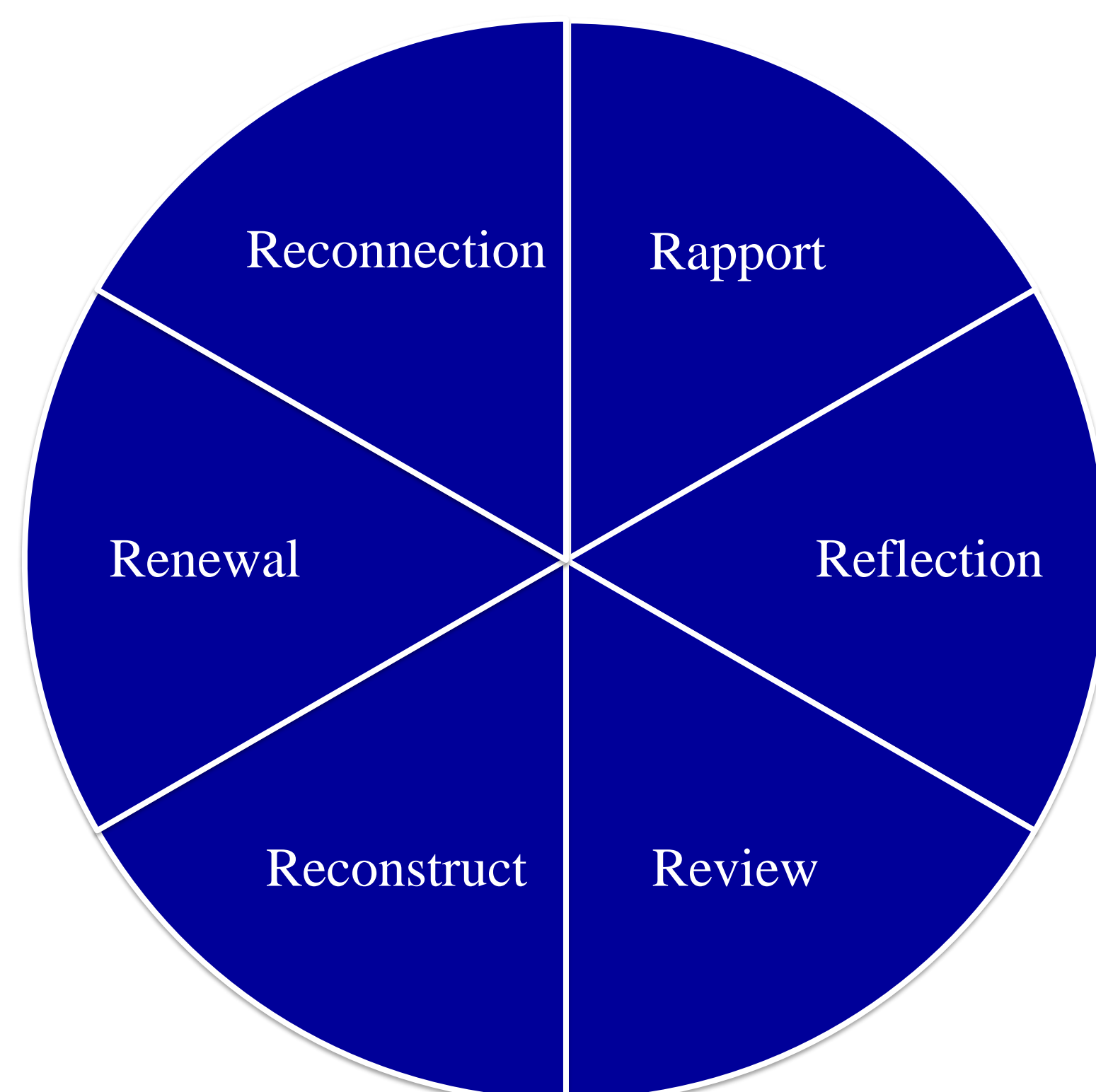
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Abstract

This project examines the self-disclosure of Vietnamese refugees garnered from personal narratives written in a freshman composition course. Carey & Hodgson's (2018) **Pastoral Narrative Disclosure (PND) Framework** is used to analyze the educational context and introspective process of writing about personal experience. Twenty-one essays were examined and utilized for this project.

The PND Framework

The **Pastoral Narrative Disclosure (PND) Framework** was devised as a tool for guiding rehabilitative counseling. It has eight (8) "stages" of rehabilitation. *Two of which – ritual and restoration – have been omitted from this study, due to irrelevancy.*



Context

In May, 1985, a University of Pittsburgh graduate named **Rebecca Dean** was hired as an adjunct professor of English at Pasco-Hernando Community College in New Port Richey, Florida. During her two years there, she taught multiple courses in writing, grammar, literature, and the humanities. To her surprise, many of her students were Vietnamese refugees.

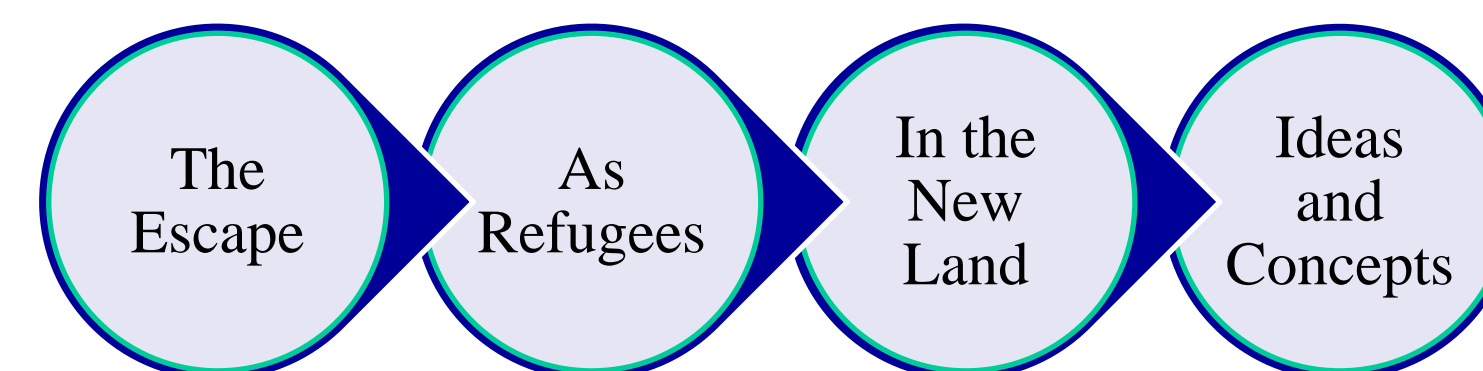


Rebecca Dean, Ph.D. (1957-2021)

The Essays

Dean implored her students: **write about what you know.** From there, she received many vivid, heartrending and horrifying accounts of the refugee experience. With her students' permission, Dean collected the essays and set out to publish them as an anthology with the goal of helping others learn about Vietnam and its people.

The twenty-one essays included in the collection, each averaging 2-3 pages in length, can be grouped into four major themes:



Upon running a macro to conduct a **count of word occurrences**, the words that were used the most frequently across all the essays are:



PND Applied

Here are the six relevant "stages" from the PND Framework and how this academic context applies it:

- ✍ **Rapport**
The instructor cultivated a respectful, trusting classroom environment that encouraged authentic communication and meaningful composition.
- ✍ **Reflection**
Students recalled their experiences of escaping Vietnam during communist rule.
- ✍ **Review**
The prewriting process: introspective thinking and recollection.
- ✍ **Reconstruct**
The writing process: examination of feelings and coming to grips with them.
- ✍ **Renewal**
Enjoying their communities and forging relationships in the United States, as articulated through their written narratives.
- ✍ **Reconnection**
Pursuing their education in the United States in pursuit of a safe, happy life.

Conclusion

The Pastoral Narrative Disclosure Framework can be applied to expressive writing tasks, as it thoroughly depicts the writing process as it is commonly taught in composition courses. Further, it illustrates the **caring relationship** that can be cultivated between instructor and student, and moreover, the **powerful stories** that can be shared in such a positive learning situation.