



An Invitational Education
Member Resource

Title:	From the Other Side of the Desk
Shared by: (Name, State/Country)	Judy Lehr Guarino, St. Augustine, Florida
Email Address:	jbguarino@gmail.com
Type of Activity or Resource:	Individual reflection---group or partner sharing if desired
Objective:	To enable the participants to experience what it is like to be students in their classrooms.
Recommended Age Group:	Adults--teachers
Materials Needed:	Visualization Handout
Time:	30 minutes to one hour
Additional Notes:	Promotes participants the opportunity to examine themselves and perhaps become more invitational

All Rights Reserved: Invitational Education Member Resources remain the property of the author and are intended for use in educational settings. They may not be used for commercial purposes nor reproduced for any other purpose without written permission from the author or copyright holder.

Activity 7

From the Other Side of the Desk

Objective:

To enable the participants to experience what it is like to be students in their classrooms.

Procedure:

1. Read the visualization handout aloud and follow the directions carefully.
2. After the participants open their eyes, ask the following questions for processing:
 - A. Describe what you saw as you looked forward, behind, to the right, to the left, up, down?
 - B. Describe what you heard—
 - student talk.
 - teacher talk.
 - silence.
 - “other” sounds.

Suggested Questions for Processing:

- A. Did you become comfortable or uncomfortable during this process?
- B. As you experience your classroom from the other side of the desk, is there anything you want to change?

From the Other Side of the Desk

Ask the participants to close their eyes and relax. Provide the following instructions and pause for ten seconds after each sentence.

Visualize yourself as a student sitting in your classroom. Notice the appearance of the room. Be aware of the sounds within the room. Be aware of what other students in the room are doing. Notice what the teacher is doing.

Try to get a sense of how it feels to be the student in your classroom. Are you bored, excited, happy, sad, distracted? Be aware of how close you are to the teacher. Is the teacher, far away, toward the front of the room, walking around the room? Are you establishing eye contact with the teacher? Do you have a sense that the teacher is aware of what you are doing? Visualize what you do when the class is over. What does the teacher do?

When you are ready, open your eyes.