**Theoretical Educational Foundations**

**Administrators, faculty, and other colleagues may inquire about the theoretical frameworks that underpin SI. Professional academic presentations and publications may also require that presenters and authors link educational practices to their theoretical foundations. How would you relate SI to these theoretical foundations?**

**Behavioral Learning Theory**

(Watson, Skinner, Bandura, Ausubel, Herbart)

* Behavior is based on positive reinforcement of desirable behavior
* Break down complex tasks into their component parts
* Emphasis is on cause and effect relationships (process to product)
* Modeling is important
* Engaging is only way to gain

**Cognitive Developmental Theory**

(Brunner, Piaget, Flower & Hayes)

* Mental structures develop gradually as learning is constructed through organization and integration of new information and experiences
* As learner assimilate knowledge, they think differently about a concept
* Learners use prior knowledge when learning new knowledge

**Social Interdependence Theory**

(Geertz, Vygotsky, Bakhtin, Doyle, Erickson)

* Social interaction causes conflict that stimulates cognitive development
* Knowledge is actively built by learners, working together cooperatively and interdependently
* Knowledge is produced rather than distributed
* Knowledge and understanding are not constructed individually but in dialogue with others, and facts are “true” in that social context
* What learners do in collaboration today, they will be able to do independently tomorrow

**Interpretive/Critical Theory**

(Freire, Apple, Kozol, Marx)

* Good pedagogy empowers learners to take control of their own learning processes
* Education is apolitical process in that it involves issues related to power and control
* Learning should have as its goal liberation rather than domination
* Educational practices should seed to overcome the learner’s “culture of silence”
* Discussion of ideas
* Introduction of alternate ides
* Support/Research ideas