

The first five minutes of the workshop

Several folks have asked me to scribble down the remarks I make when I open up a workshop. I believe that the first five minutes is crucial; on the same token everyone has to develop their own style. So—what follows are the remarks I make. How you greet, thank, and point participants down the road to a successful experience will depend on how **YOU** decide to do it.

For the record, I start like this.

“I want to begin by welcoming you and thanking you for joining us this morning for a day of PLT. If the past is any predictor of the future, I can tell you with confidence that not only are you going to have a good time—you are going to learn a lot !

Before we get to the specifics of our program today—I want to spend just a minute explaining to you what Project Learning Tree is---and what it is not.

First what it's not—the PLT curriculum guide will not replace your math book, your science text, or your social studies books.

What PLT is—is a set of lessons about the natural world—not just trees,-- but water, air, soils, and animals—the forest-- and the living and non-living relationships that make it whole.

*PLT lessons are engaging—a wonderful hook that uses the curiosity and wonder that children already have for the natural world.

*PLT lessons are inter-active—use role playing, games, and simulations.

*And just as important—PLT lessons are interdisciplinary—creative teachers use them to teach math, science, and social studies in ways that are novel and fun.

Together today we are going to accomplish 3 big goals !

- 1) We are going to familiarize you with some of the lessons in the PLT guide--- we are going to do this by modeling them to you !! If there are times you feel as if you are being treated like a child...Hello !! It is because you are being treated like a child !! As we model each one---please be thinking..how would I adapt this lesson to work well for my audience or grade level ?
- 2) Along with the lessons we'll provide some content info that supports the lesson—information that you'll need in order to feel comfortable, confident, and competent to teach the lessons yourself...this is a risk free, non-scary forum for you to ask all the questions you want...and also to share your own expertise and experience.
- 3) Lastly, you'll have the chance to practice delivering a part of a PLT lesson with your classmates--- what do you suppose the research shows will be the first lesson you teach to your own audience ???

YES !! One you see us to or one you do yourself today or tomorrow!

Don't forget to mention the tree riddles etc at this point—it always get's a smile when you say that the prizes are cash, trips, and major appliances !!