

NLP Trainer Training

by John Seymour

Our annual Trainer's Training course starts on Saturday June 2nd. I am often asked who it is for and what they will get from it.

The majority of delegates are experienced professional trainers who have trained up to Master Practitioner level in NLP. Most want to learn the NLP approach to training, and specifically how to teach NLP skills. They want to become more effective as trainers and add NLP skills to their existing trainings. This is much more in demand by organisations than it has ever been. Whilst most train for organisations, usually in the people skills field, some want to set up teaching NLP skills to the general public.

The teaching of NLP has fascinated me since I went to Santa Cruz University in California to do my Practitioner Training with John Grinder, Judith Delozier, Robert Dilts et al. By that point in my life I had two postgraduate teaching qualifications and a Diploma in Facilitator Styles. Initially I had no idea what they were doing, but I enjoyed it hugely and noticed that I seemed to be learning a lot of really useful stuff. What hooked me was that these people had evolved a unique approach to experiential skills training. In all my years in education and psychology I had not come across an approach like this. It was elegant, effective and enjoyable. I was well impressed, and by the end of the Practitioner training I began to see what they were doing and how it worked.

I spent five years learning how to teach NLP skills using this new NLP training model before being ready to write about it. This I did, in 'Training with NLP', written with Joseph O'Connor, who at the time was serving a NLP trainer apprenticeship with me, at JSA. At that time I had been appointed as the 'National Tutor for NLP in Higher and Further Education' and was teaching some of the first NLP courses for teachers and lecturers at the Further Education Staff College. 'Training with NLP' was the first book to model out how NLP training worked, and how it was different to other models of teaching and training. I was delighted with Judy Delozier's comments.

"I feel this book is very close to the thought processes and levels of interaction I employ in training. – Training with NLP uses skilful modelling techniques to outline the process of training. – I believe this book is a natural selection for anyone in the training or teaching arena."

I think what excited me the most, with my background as a professional teacher, was that here was a genuinely new development in teaching. Not only did we have a new and very effective approach to teaching, but with NLP modelling, here for the first time was a way of finding out what any naturally gifted teacher actually does.

I should explain the importance of this. I believe education has been held back by the lack of a workable model of how exactly a gifted teacher gets different kinds of learning to happen. At some point these critically important discoveries from NLP will help to transform the effectiveness of our education systems. We came very close to landing a project with the Open University, who train more teachers than any other organisation in the UK. The idea was to include the NLP approach to teaching and learning in their Postgraduate Certificate in Education. Unfortunately, the project was a bit ahead of it's time, and got a 'no' from the governing board.

I believe that Surrey University's research project on the effectiveness of NLP run by Paul Tosey and Jane Mathison will help to improve the credibility of NLP in academic circles. This in turn will make it easier for NLP to contribute to the world of teaching on the scale that it certainly has in the world of business training.

If this new approach to training excites you, there are still a few places available on this year's NLP Trainers Training starting on June 2nd. I do most of the training myself and it is one of my favourite courses. Just phone the office if you want to apply for a place.