

Appendix A: The Spiral Model of Popular Education

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Popular education is an approach to adult education that is based on helping groups of people to learn from their experiences. When we work with organizations or networks, we always assume that the people we are working with know best what their community needs and how to provide it. As outsiders or facilitators, we have knowledge, expertise, experiences, and ideas to offer. But we always start with the experiential wisdom of the folks we are working with. We deeply believe that collectively, they have the wisdom to bring about significant change. They might not have tapped into that wisdom yet, but it's there. Our job is to help them surface their collective wisdom, and use it to take their work to the next level. This is how we use the spiral model. The spiral model is at the core of everything we do.

