

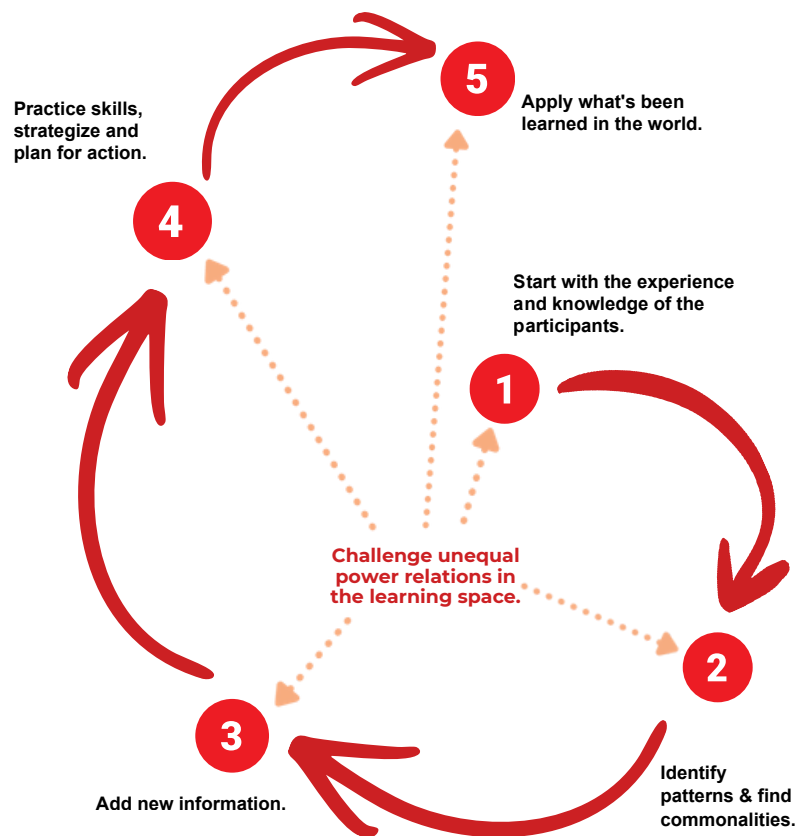
WHAT IS POPULAR EDUCATION?

Popular Education is an approach to teaching and learning that is aimed at radical transformation for social and economic justice.

Popular Education:

- Is participatory and collective;
- Starts with people's existing knowledge and experiences;
- Is rooted in the concept of education for critical consciousness;
- Strives to create a learning environment that is democratic by challenging existing inequities so that all feel equally welcome to participate;
- Is accessible to all workers regardless of education level;
- Engages people's minds, bodies, and emotions;
- Is openly on the side of the workers and other oppressed people;
- Is focused on collective empowerment committed to progressive struggle rather than promoting individual growth.

The Spiral Model



--Spiral Model source: Education for Changing Unions.

Because we are a union, our education prioritizes not merely the development of new skills for our members and staff, but also a *transformation*, by challenging participants to use the skills and information from the class to build power. Popular Education supports this transformation through the belief that people have the capacity to come together collectively to solve their problems, and that they have the right to be in control of the decisions that affect their patients' and their own work lives.

For more information contact
NYSNA's Labor Education Department
at labored@nysna.org

