This talk emphasizes the importance of understanding local contexts in order to provide appropriate education for teachers about literacy instruction. Smagorinsky demonstrates challenges to his own thinking when he used a book he co-edited for U.S. educators in the context of a literacy education program at the Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico. This narrative relates how the book was rewritten by the teachers in his seminar in order to have relevance, with extensive adaptations required. This experience points to the contextual facets of literacy development, and the need to think in terms of the settings of teaching and learning in university teacher education programs.

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