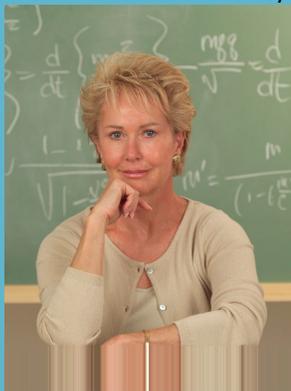




“We do not learn from experience... We learn from reflecting on experience.”

—John Dewey



“Learning without reflection is a waste. Reflection without learning is dangerous.”

—Confucius

Check us out on the web:
[Illinois Classrooms in Action](http://IllinoisClassroomsInAction.org)



Comprehensive System
 Of Learning Supports

Quick Reflections are Possible!

Daily reflections can help improve educators day to day pedagogy. Choose two or three questions each day, alternating between questions during the week. This can help educators notice quick wins, patterns in behavior and understanding on how students are learning in the moment.

- What was my best moment today and how can I have more moments like it?
- What was my most challenging moment and why? How will I respond next time?
- Were my students excited to be in class? If not, what can I do to change this?
- How was my mood with others today and how can I improve it?
- How well did I communicate with others today and how can I do this better?
- In what ways did my students surprise me most today?
- How did I support my colleagues today and how will I continue to do so?
- What are the biggest obstacles to improving my practice and how will I overcome them?
- What did I do today for myself and why is this important?
- What do I want *everyone* to be able to say about me at the end of the day tomorrow?

Reflective Tools For All Year

Many educators have difficulty reflecting on the entire year especially when the end of year activities are in full swing. It is easy to remember the last semester and forget amazing things from the first part of the year. Here are few tools to help compile information and thoughts in the moment.

Self-Reflective journal– This can be daily, weekly or after a unit/lesson.

Video Recording– Viewing an activity with video can provide an unaltered and unbiased vantage point for reflection, from both educator and student.

Student Observation– Students love giving feedback! A simple survey with critical questions can give insight to many perspectives of a lesson.

Peer Observation– Invite a colleague to come into the classroom. Provide them with a simple questionnaire asking the same questions you might ask yourself.

Questions to Ask Regarding Lessons Lesson Objectives

- Was the lesson too easy or too difficult for the students?
- What problems arose?

Materials

- Did the materials keep the students engaged in the lesson?
- What materials did we use that worked/didn't work in the lesson?

Students

- Were students on task?
- What parts of the lesson did the student seem more/less engaged?

Classroom Management

- Were my instructions clear?
- Was the lesson taught at a reasonable pace?

Teacher

- How effective was the overall lesson?
- Did I meet all of my objectives?
- What would I do different next time?

Reflect on the Whole Child and Whole Year

Many educators take time at the end of the year to reflect on what went well, identify adjustments needed or improvements that can be put in place. When sitting down to reflect find a quiet place free of distractions. Here are a few simple questions to guide reflection:

- *What was your greatest achievement this year?*
- *What was your happiest moment with your students this year?*
- *What would you have done differently this year?*
- *What was your biggest struggle or cause of stress this year?*
- *What could you do to make next year easier?*
- *What will be your number one goal for next year?*

Once these questions are answered take a few minutes to review the answers. What factors contributed to the greatest achievement of the year? Was it within the lesson structure or student driven? Was it a continuous process that took a great deal of effort and the did the outcome exceed the expectation?

How did the happiest moment happen? Is this something that could be added into the answer for the biggest struggle and alleviate the struggle?

When finishing the review of the answers take a look at the Number One Goal. Make a list of steps, supports and needs to achieve this goal.