

What's So Great About Reflection?

Introducing Reflection for Future Educators

educ2201

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The Problem

“We know how kids learn; we know what classes should look like, and yet our classes look almost the opposite,” Holman said. He says there’s a particular deficit in math, where teachers and parents expect things to be taught the way they learned them. Not everyone has experienced good math instruction themselves, Holman said, so they can’t even begin to conceptualize a new way of doing it. “Imagine explaining color to someone who has never seen it.”

(Schwartz, 2004)

Teachers tend to teach the way they were taught as K-12 students.

(Lortie, 2002)

An Approach

Emphasize
REFLECTION as a key
practice in teacher
education.



What do we think of when we think of reflection in learning and teaching?



F-back to school by Rob Swystun

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Reflection allows us to **look back** on and **make meaning** of what happened in the past as well as to help us to **plan** for the future.



How Do We Do Reflection?

In a ⚡ flash ⚡:

1. *Identify* the important stuff
2. *Analyze* the important stuff
3. *Make a plan* for the future

What Supports Reflection?

- ▶ Mutual Respect
- ▶ Intentional Use of Space
- ▶ A Culture of Questioning
- ▶ Thoughtful Silence
- ▶ Student-to-Student Discussions
- ▶ Relating Topic to Students' Lives
- ▶ Allowing for a Variety of Student Expressions
- ▶ Creating Space for Diverse Viewpoints

Let's Go To The Tape

Keep track of when the teachers:

- ▶ *Identify* important stuff
- ▶ *Analyze* important stuff
- ▶ *Make a plan* for the future

Also keep an eye out for evidence of the components of a reflective space.



On to the Passport Action Plans...



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