



**POSITIVE
CHARACTER
QUOTES**

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."-Warren Bennis

"Management is doing things right. Leadership is doing the right things"-P Drucker

"They don't care how much you know until they now how much you care" -Theodore Roosevelt

"to lead the people, walk behind them." -Lao Tzu

"the most important persuasion tool you have in your entire arsenal is integrity." -Zig Ziglar

North Florida Region

FEBRUARY 2012



Loving to use Questions

"Questions may be the most powerful technology we have ever created. Questions and questioning allow us to make sense of a confusing world. They are the tools that lead to insight and understanding."

Effective teachers use questioning techniques to develop students' understanding of standards in unit and daily lessons. Effective teachers push students to think beyond the initial question and to use high-quality, scaffolded questions (as defined by Bloom's Taxonomy).

Using Questions also effectively

- teaches your students to ask high quality questions
- provides multiple opportunities to develop student understanding
- encourages students, and provides positive and appropriate responses



Elements of Higher-Level Questioning

Opportunities to Respond – How often does the teacher ask questions or give students a chance to respond to the topic at hand?

Levels of Questions - Can the teacher match specific questions with the appropriate instructional level for that lesson? Do teachers understand *when* certain levels of questioning are needed? Lower level questions *are* important. They help teachers and students scaffold and prepare for other questions that require deeper thought.

Frequency – How often does the teacher ask each level of question? Do they almost only ever ask Level 1 or Level 3 questions?

Wait Time – How long does the teacher *wait*...after asking their question? This is absolutely crucial to eliciting better student answers. Remember that students need time to process their answers, especially for higher level questions. Strategies such as Think-Pair-Share help do this

Wording of Questions – How does the wording of a question impact student answers? Does the question elicit a one-word or yes/no answer? Does the question have a definite right or wrong answer? Are there a multitude of ways to answer a question "correctly?" Does the question require students to provide evidence to support their opinion? There is no one type of question students should be asked, but how does the wording impact the outcome?

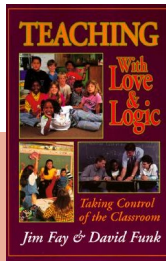
Use of Background Knowledge – The concept of background knowledge and scaffolding is essential for students to connect to new learning.

Strong neural pathways in the brain are created by connecting to pathways that already exist, much like a system of roads. The more background knowledge students have to draw upon (content related or not) the better answers they can devise.

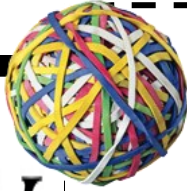
Student Responses – How students respond to the teacher's questions can tell you a lot about the discussion norms in a classroom. Are they respectful of other's answers? Do they answer at all? Is there a broad spectrum of the class involved in the conversation or is it just 2 or 3 students? How easily can the teacher recognize and redirect students when needed?

Professional Development Book Review

Teaching with Love and Logic:
Taking Control of the Classroom
by Jim Fay and David Funk



Discover why Love and Logic works in the school environment and understand the psychological reasons for its effectiveness. Jim Fay and David Funk's truly positive approach and time-tested ideas and strategies will empower teachers to effectively manage classroom dynamics while bringing the joy back to teaching.



JOY AT WORK

**A Revolutionary
Approach to Fun
on the Job**

Shared Values *Task forces address change*

The truth is that through any change - 5% of people will accept it immediately, 25% will slowly

adapt and accept, 60% will take a "let's wait and see" approach and will eventually accept the new idea if it works to their advantage, and 10% will never accept any change. Task forces must recognize this and not waste time fertilizing rocks or watering the weeds! Work with the critical mass and reward those that forge ahead. The Japanese term for continual improvement is kaizen. It is a never-ending pursuit to improve and advance.

Effective task forces promote this philosophy and support change that is needed on a campus!

The following steps will help a task force lead change:

- * Invite everyone to the task force discussion to address the change and identify change agents to research the present status and the possible outcomes as a result of change
- * Establish a vision and strategy and communicate it to all involved parties
- * Encourage risk-taking and recognize gains
- * Implement the plan and monitor benchmarks of growth throughout the process
- * Readjust, monitor, revise and start over if necessary
- * Communicate-communicate-communicate!!!
- * Celebrate and reward success!



What Makes a Good Question?

Lead students deeper into a text and improve their speaking, listening, and writing skills, as recommended by the Common Core State Standards. However, in order for students to develop these skills, teachers must be able to craft meaningful questions that allow a purposeful discussion to occur. In this tip, you will learn how to create these meaningful questions to help guide your students toward a deeper understanding of the subject at hand.

When you are able to ask evocative questions, you will drive a classroom discussion first by engaging the participants and then by inspiring their thinking. While the best questions can seem simple at times, there is an art to both composing and asking them. Although questions will vary depending on the text under discussion and the participants involved, there is a consistent set of characteristics that define a strong question. It is always open-ended, thought-provoking, and clear.

Open-ended questions are designed to elicit numerous correct responses. The openness of seminar questions invites multiple perspectives and allows a much wider range of participation than do more closed, traditional questions. Good seminar questions are also thought-provoking: first by sparking numerous responses and then by requiring participants to synthesize those responses.

All good questions must also be clear. Participants should understand immediately what is being asked. Often, clarity comes with simplicity; the fewer the number of words in a question, the more effective it usually is. When experienced facilitators find themselves needing to ask a more complex question, they are careful to preface it adequately, speak slowly, and repeat it at least twice. In other words, ask a complex question in a clear and simple way.

-Teaching Critical Thinking:

Terry Roberts and Laura Billings

Benefits of Wait Time During Teaching and Learning

Increasing wait-time beyond three seconds is positively related to the following student outcomes:

- ♥ Improvements in student achievement
- ♥ Improvements in student retention, as measured by delayed tests
- ♥ Increases in the number of higher cognitive responses generated by students
- ♥ Increases in the length of student responses
- ♥ Increases in the number of unsolicited responses
- ♥ Decreases in students' failure to respond
- ♥ Increases in the amount and quality of evidence students offer to support their inferences
- ♥ Increases in contributions by students who do not participate much when wait-time is under three seconds
- ♥ Expansion of the variety of responses offered by students
- ♥ Decreases in student interruptions
- ♥ Increases in student-student interactions
- ♥ Increases in the number of questions posed by students

Android for Schools

Great apps students love and teachers enjoy!



Find fun ways to integrate an Ipad, Iphone, or

other awesome android device into your teaching or have available for the students to practice at home!

⇒ Google Books is a great place to find free books to read on your phone or tablet.

⇒ Words, Words, Words is a free vocabulary app from Socratica.

⇒ Math Workout is a free Android app for practicing your basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills.

⇒ MeeGenius is a nice source of free and paid ebooks for kids.

⇒ iStoryBooks is a free Android app that offers two dozen free digital storybooks for kids ages two through eight.

⇒ 123s ABCs is an Android app for handwriting practice.

⇒ Animal Book is an app designed to help young children learn to recognize animals.

⇒ The Snag Films Android App hosts more than 2000 documentary films available for free viewing

⇒ Other Apps that might help you as a teacher:

- ♥ Dropbox
- ♥ Evernote
- ♥ Skitch
- ♥ Brain Honey
- ♥ Chalksite
- ♥ Edmodo
- ♥ Pandora
- ♥ SchoolTool
- ♥ Zoho
- ♥ 30Boxes
- ♥ BrainTuner
- ♥ Omnifocus
- ♥ Sync Space
- ♥ www.classdojo.com

“Ready to use the Common Core in your daily lessons? Check out the new app: Mastery Connect Common Core app! Quickly locate standards to help you plan”

Important (and some random)

Dates in February:

- American Heart Month
- Black History Month
- National Dental Health Month
- 2— Groundhog Day
- 3—Elmo’s birthday
- 4 —Rosa Park’s birthday
- 5— Superbowl Sunday
- 6— Monopoly Board Game Created 1935
- 7 - Charles Dickens Birthday
- 8 —Boy Scouts Day Founded 1910
- 9 —National Tooth Day
- 12—Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday
- 13— First Public School established 1635
- 14— Valentine’s Day
- 15— Susan B. Anthony born 1820
- 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 19—Phonograph patented by Edison in 1878
- 20 - President’s Day
- 21 —Fat Tuesday to begin Mardi Gras
- 22 —George Washington’s Birthday
- 23 - US Flag raised at Iwo Jima 1945
- 25— Quiet Day
- 27— International Polar Bear Day
- 28—Gold Seekers arrived in San Francisco 1849
- 29— Leap Year Day

EVERYONE IS A LEADER ON CAMPUS, whether

you lead in your classroom, from the cafeteria or even in the hallway. As leaders you recognize the uniqueness of people around you such as peers, students and parents.

How many of the following characteristics of an effective leader do you meet:

- ♥ A sense of self-worth, a positive attitude, and a belief in success
- ♥ A purpose in life
- ♥ A love for life and the ability to face each day with zest, enthusiasm and your best foot forward
- ♥ A willingness to always look at a better way to accomplish something
- ♥ A team player mentality
- ♥ A personal mission that includes continual rejuvenation and revitalization
- ♥ An open mind and eagerness to listen to other’ opinions and options
- ♥ An excitement for new initiatives
- ♥ A sense of humor and ability to laugh at yourself or your mistakes



Get to know the North Florida Team
What quote do you most enjoy or live by....

Diane Beatty: "Go to the Source"

Lisa O'Grady: Howard Thurman "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive"

Linda Williams: My mother always told me and so I live by today "One cannot expect to move forward if you are comfortable sitting still"

Mary Briggs: "Life is not measure by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away" Anonymous

Cathi Cohen: "It is what it is, Fair is not same"

Lorna Potter: "I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I ended up where I needed to be" Douglas Adams

Jennifer Fornes: "An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips" Proverbs 24:26

Jeremy Gutierrez: 2 quotes one made up the other by Thomas Edison: "Check ALL of your cables and reboot" by JG "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work" by Thomas Edison

Stephania Sherman: "Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid" Albert Einstein

Are you a teacher with HEART?

H Hear and Respect me
E Encourage me to do & be my best
A Aplaud and appreciate my efforts and successes
R Respond, not REACT to all situations
T Trust my decisions and beliefs

 Education Directors 

Thanks for all the survey monkey results!

Don't forget to check out the latest blog:

<http://imagineeducators.webs.com/>

Daily Purpose-what's yours?

Without purpose one has no direction! SO what is your daily purpose.....

My own personal daily mission is reflected in the following:

- ☺ I will begin the day with the THANK GOODNESS IT'S TODAY ~(T.G.I.T.)~ philosophy
- ☺ I will think "this is my day and no one is going to ruin it for me"
- ☺ I will be as cheerful and friendly as possible
- ☺ I will be less critical and more tolerant of students and colleagues
- ☺ I will be the BEST I can be!
- ☺ I will remember what it was like to be a student
- ☺ I will try to maintain a POSITIVE ATTITUDE throughout the day
- ☺ I will seek first to UNDERSTAND then to be understood
- ☺ I will not worry or complain about that which I cannot control
- ☺ I will share my smile at LEAST five times a day!!!!

What is your daily purpose?

Be the first to email it to Stephania and win a copy of this month's professional development book!

Region Celebrations:



February Birthdays

- 2/4 Amanda Gardner
- 2/4 Brenda Curry
- 2/5 Jessica Carafano
- 2/5 Milissa Simonsen
- 2/6 Rachel Branstrator
- 2/6 Dawn McBride
- 2/7 Donna Pemberton
- 2/8 Cami Brocksmith
- 2/9 Lisa Cruz
- 2/10 Beth Vollmer
- 2/13 Jessica Bear
- 2/14 Rachel Moore
- 2/20 Stephanie Smith
- 2/24 Melanie Dobbs
- 2/26 Trini Dixon



Share your celebrations with our region.....had a baby? Get married? Tell us - just email me!