

Teacher's Manual: Readiness to Teach Evaluation

Based on the best practices principles we provide you some practical hints to evaluate with the classroom each block. Resources: <u>http://www.reflectietoolbox.nl/</u> (Dutch) <u>http://www.networkedtoolbox.com/workareas/tools/</u> (English)

Reflective questions (use the questions that match your situation best)

1. WHAT SURPRISED YOU TODAY, AND WHY?

Learning should be surprising sometimes, and always in a good way. What often surprises educators the most about their students is that they demonstrate being able to do something they never thought they could. Ask your learners to think about something they accomplished or discovered—either about the content or about themselves—that they didn't expect.

- 2. WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU LEARNED TODAY, AND WHY DO YOU THINK SO? It's vital for us to ensure that our learners have a stake in what we're teaching. Otherwise, learning simply becomes a compliance task. A simple way to foster both connection and internalization of learning is to ask them this question. You'll get various answers, and that's okay. Each learner is different and with a different learning style and diverse degrees of interests.
- 3. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT, AND WHY? Why not go off the beaten path from time to time? Ask your learners where they want to go next and you've always got time well spent with class activities. The more engaged and interested learners are, the more they want to learn. Focusing on tasks and pathways that matter to them ensure they stay that way.
- 4. WHAT MADE YOU CURIOUS TODAY? Learning is all about fostering curiosity which is a hallmark of being a lifelong learner. When you're curious, learning is no longer a chore or simply a task needing to be performed. It becomes a conscious enthusiastic pursuit of meaningful discovery and understanding. Curiosity also helps make knowledge useful and important, so consider this one of your most vital learning reflections.
- 5. WHEN WERE YOU AT YOUR BEST TODAY, AND WHY? This one is a breath of fresh air for learners of all ages. Sometimes we make learning journeys more about what we consider to be our students' best moments, but they may think differently for reasons a teacher might not have thought of.
- 6. WHAT CAN/SHOULD YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU KNOW?

In the end, we learn in order to practically apply what we've learned to our lives—otherwise, there's no point. Our kids should be equipped to handle knowledge responsibly and ethically, and be able to make it useful. Learning reflections such as this call for affirmative action, and critical thinking about what learning and knowledge are for. You can challenge learners to have open discussions about how best they can use what you teach them. Have them think personally, locally, and globally about how their learning connects them to living once school is over.