

# REFLECTION



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October Tips from Steve

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**I'M EXHAUSTED!!**

**What a Stressful Day!!!!**

**I DID NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS!!!!**

**How many more years to retirement??**

Who hasn't had one of these days? NO human can even imagine the circus we as teachers live in daily. At the end of the day, if we are doing it right, there is nothing but an empty teacher tank. That being said, I often think we are so busy teaching, conferring, managing, planning, grading, and doing paper-work that we do not take the time to reflect about the very reason we are there - the students.

The older I get, the more I realized that I spent very little time actually thinking about students' affective domain. Yet there is so much research that indicates "relationship" is the most powerful coercer of learning" (Roland Barth). If we could just take 5 minutes every other day to ask ourselves the 5 Questions (see page 3), we might see an improvement in relationship and learning in our classroom. Additionally, modeling this reflective practice may support students in their own self-reflection in the future. Because a teacher's day is filled with the unpredictable, as you reflect on these questions write down the student's name and focus so you remember to talk with them the next day.

As students arrive the next day, give them the torn off appointment and let them know you want to talk to them about how they are feeling (giving them the information so they do not panic thinking they have done something wrong). Use T.A.L.C. to help navigate the conversation.

**T** - Tell the truth about what happened. Be honest about your shortcomings. Kids deserve that.

**A** - Ask forgiveness/understanding - create that bond with the child

**L** - Listen to the student's response in a non-defensive manner - this should be a dialogue, not a monologue

**C** - Commit to a new way. Sometimes it can help if you have a 'signal' the child can give you if they are feeling that way again. This way, you will not have to "T.A.L.C." if you can catch it before it happens.

***Make every student feel like the teacher's pet!***

# 5 QUESTIONS

BY STEVE W. DUNN

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## At the end of a hard day, ask...



- 1) Did I hurt/offend any of my students or get into a power struggle when I didn't need to?
- 2) Did I listen/watch each student beyond the academics?
- 3) Was I negative/unfair to any of my students?
- 4) Did I miss an opportunity to sincerely uplift a student?
- 5) Did I devalue a student?

## fix it with T.A.L.C

**T**ell the truth - BE HONEST

**A**sk forgiveness/understanding

**L**isten to response non-defensively

**C**ommit to a new way

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Name/Issue