

Chapter 1 Book Study Questions

As a staff, explore the concepts presented in this chapter and reflect on how they are evidenced in or might impact your school culture. As you read each of the following questions, think about how you would respond based on your individual role. If you are an administrator, think about these questions as you reflect on how you support your staff. If you are a teacher or support staff member, think about these questions as you reflect on how you support students.

1. In your building, do you feel that trusting relationships are valued (for staff, colleagues, and students)? Elaborate on why or why not.
2. What do you do to ensure your staff, students, and colleagues feel supported and that their voices matter?
3. Do you believe all students can learn and want to learn? Do you think some students either don't care or are not capable of learning? How do these beliefs impact the lessons you design and how you interact with students?

4. Have you ever had an experience where someone, maybe a coach or leader, asked you questions that helped you understand yourself and your situation better so you could figure out how to navigate it? How did that feel compared to an experience where a supervisor told you what to do?
5. Think about a time at work where you felt seen. What did your colleagues or administrators do that made you feel that way? What do you do that makes your colleagues and administrators feel seen? What do you do to ensure your students feel seen?
6. What are your school's traditions or activities that foster feelings of connection among staff and with students? If you don't yet have any, what traditions would you like to start?
7. Based on this chapter, is there anything you may want to try to improve trust and connection in your building?