

Chapter 3 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. What (real or perceived) personal barriers do you experience that prevent you from being authentic (beliefs, fears, how you were raised, childhood traumas, personality, past experiences, and so on)?
2. What (social or systemic) barriers within your school prevent you from being authentic (shoulds, should-nots, norms, policies, student clientele, and so on)?
3. What schoolwide expectations are there for staff members? Is there space for autonomy and authenticity within those expectations?

4. Are staff encouraged to be authentic in your school? What does that look like for you?
5. What does it look like in the classrooms of teachers who are being their authentic selves? What kind of relationships do those teachers have with their students?
6. What's your wish list that would allow you to be able to do activities or lessons with your students that would accentuate your authentic self?