

Figure 3.3: Being Authentic While Also Meeting Students' Needs

Students have specific needs during adolescence. This activity will help you think through how to meet those needs while also being true to yourself and your needs. As you answer the following questions, try to be honest with yourself about what you need as a teacher and not what you think you should want or need. Feel free to think outside the box.

Our students' needs:

- To feel connected to their peers
- To experience respect from adults
- To have autonomy
- To have control
- To understand the connection of our content to real life
- To see adults as fellow humans who they have some sort of connection with
- To witness adults being real so they can relate to them and trust them
- To experience acceptance and non-judgment
- To feel safe to learn and grow
- To experience novelty

1. Put a star next to the student needs that you already address well. Circle the needs you want to address better and underline the needs you philosophically disagree with or struggle to accept.
2. What *classroom norms, rules, and procedures* do you currently have in place that ensure these needs are met and fit with your authentic self?

3. Choose two needs that you circled from the previous list. How might you change your current classroom norms, rules, and procedures to ensure those needs are met?
4. Choose two needs that you circled from the previous list. How might you change your current discipline and conflict resolution strategies in a way that ensures those needs are met while maintaining your authenticity?
5. Choose two needs that you circled from the previous list. How might you design your instruction in a way that ensures those needs are met while also upholding content standards and being congruent with your authentic self?
6. Look at the student needs that you underlined and choose two or three to explore.
 - a. Why do you disagree with or struggle to accept this student need?

- b. Remember when you were an adolescent. Do you remember experiencing this need? How did it feel when adults dismissed it?