

## Chapter 15: Reflective Practice

Use the following questions and activities to reflect on and make changes to your practice.

1. This chapter talked about student readiness for new learning, specifically in the form of scaffolding. What do you do in your classroom to determine if your students are ready for new learnings?

a. Intellectually:

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b. Emotionally:

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2. This chapter also described two stories in which elementary teachers told their students that Santa Claus was fictitious, both of which upset parents. In your teaching practice, do you ever face the question of whether or not it is appropriate for you to teach certain content to your students, or whether this type of knowledge is better taught to your students by their caregivers? If so, list the factors that you consider in making your determination as to whether or not you or the caregivers should teach this to your students.

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- b. 

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- c. 

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- d. 

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- e. 

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3. Think about the strategies discussed in this chapter to reassure students when they are working hard to grasp new content, but they just can't get it. What do you do when this happens in your class? What approaches, such as using the imagery of waves washing over a shoreline, do you think might help some of your students?

4. Choose one of your most challenging students, one whom you feel you can reach but haven't been able to thus far. Now, think about the quote from *The Americans*, "There's a million ways in" (Fields & Weisberg, 2014). Begin a journey of exploration with this student to find out as much as you can about their interests, likes, dislikes, and activities outside of your class in school, outside of school, and so on. What ways do you see in, and what might you be able to accomplish with this student given your new knowledge?

## REPRODUCIBLE

5. Answer this question honestly: On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being high, how important do you think it is that your students like you in order for you to be effective as their teacher? Circle your response.

1            2            3            4            5            6            7            8            9            10

6. The information we explored in this chapter argues that students don't learn from people they don't like. If you circled any number below a 7, think about why you feel that way and the arguments in this chapter. What changes might you make in your teaching practice as a result of your reflections?

*Source: Fields, J., & Weisberg, J. (Executive Producers). (2014). The Americans [Television series]. Los Angeles: Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment.*