

Chapter 16: Reflective Practice

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

1. Have you ever given a student extra marks (pity marks) in order to bump up their grade? Write down your insights about who benefited (you, the student, or both of you) from this and why. What was your goal? Did you achieve what you wanted by awarding these extra marks?

2. Think about the story of the principal, Mr. Williams, who threatened a student with changing his yearbook entry unless the student improved his behavior. Do you think the principal's actions were ethical? Why or why not?

What about you? Have you ever threatened a student by telling them you would embarrass them unless they complied with something you wanted, such as a change in classroom behavior? If so, how did that work out for you and the student? Do you feel your behavior in this instance (while it may have been effective) was ethical?

3. This chapter described two online tests you can take to find out how Machiavellian you might be: (1) the MACH-IV test (Open-Source Psychometrics Project, n.d.b) and (2) the dark triad personality test (Open-Source Psychometrics Project, n.d.a). Take these tests using the links at the end of this reproducible, and reflect on what you discovered about yourself. How might this knowledge impact your current teaching practices?

4. Think about the *default strategy* described in this chapter and the idea of nudging your students to choose what you want them to by simply doing nothing. What is one way that you could implement a default strategy in your classroom? Describe it, and then take it for a test drive. How did it work?

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5. Describe two ways in which you currently color the choices in your classroom. (Use the examples in this chapter as models.)

- a. _____

- b. _____

What is an additional way you could nudge your students to choose what it is you want them to choose?

6. Think about something you have done with a student or students in order to have them choose what it is you wanted them to do, but you were somewhat uncomfortable with your actions. Now, apply the following three criteria to what you did:

- a. Did the student benefit from your actions? _____
- b. Did you and the student benefit from your actions? _____
- c. Were you the only one who benefited from your actions, and was the student harmed in some way?

How comfortable would you be telling a person you hold in high regard about what you did and why?

In light of your answers to the preceding questions, would you do the same thing again in a similar circumstance, or would you choose a different path? If so, why?

Sources: Open-Source Psychometrics Project. (n.d.a). Dark triad personality test. Accessed at <https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/SD3> on June 8, 2021; Open-Source Psychometrics Project. (n.d.b). MACH-IV: Machiavellianism test. Accessed at <https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/MACH-IV/1.php> on June 8, 2021.