

the TEACHERS GUILD

Unit 1

Empathy

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Instructions

Make a copy of this document. Answer each reflection question in 1-2 paragraphs. Save it as a PDF and post it in your district's collaboration space on www.teachersguild.org.

Reflection

Who are you? How does your identity and role affect how people interact with you?

I am an educator, learner, daughter, wife, mother, sister, and a trusted friend. For the last 12 years I have been teaching science to students in middle and elementary grades.

Too often people assume that all teachers think and behave the same way, allowing stereotypes to affect how they see us. In my opinion, teachers bring their own identities, experiences, and perspectives to their jobs.

Most people find me kind, patient, and flexible instead of having the cold demeanor typically associated with educators. As an educator, my students feel comfortable to share their thoughts or ask for help. They look at me as a mentor for their education as well as an advisor to get help.

Which Empathy activity did you complete? Reflect on how it felt to complete the Empathy activity. Please post any videos, notes, or artifacts from your Empathy activity.

I have used "Empathy Interview" method to complete the activity in a sit-down setting. It was an amazing experience to talk and learn little more about my students outside the regular class schedule. I'm attaching some students perspective to few interview questions. [Link1](#) [Link2](#) [Link3](#) [Link4](#) [Link 5](#) [Link 6](#)

Due to time constraints, we as teachers can't connect to students as much as we should to know their feelings and struggles. I believe that establishing a respectful environment with our students is essential for learning. Taking time to listen to student concerns shows that we care enough about them to value their ideas. Which in turn builds trust between teacher and students. Maintaining good relationships between teachers, students and parents is very essential to foster an safe environment of teaching and learning.

How do you collect information on students' experiences, emotions and motivations at your school? What do you do with this perspective?

Starting a new school year with a fresh new group of students can be exciting but scary too. It's so important to start a new school year with get to know student activities. This help me and my class bond and develop a positive classroom

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community with our diversity of learning styles. In past, I have used some handouts with few questions for students to respond and share with the class when it comes to “Get to know you” activities, which have actually gone down very well.

This year, to avoid too much extra work I decided to go down with “Google Forms” and it worked fine too. That means no worrying about collecting loads of sheets of paper that you have to store somewhere or accidentally lose. In addition, as the information is really important and personal, it's something you definitely want to keep and refer back to in the future and having all the responses in a Google Form is very convenient.

I also keep a record of IEP forms to learn about my resource and ELD students about their goals, accommodations information to provide the required resources to help them with their learning level.

Attitude towards school is related to both the school, home environment and students' interest. By collecting data about students' home environment, likes and dislikes we can make adjustment to our lessons and expectation. Being valued and respected at school gives meaning to the study and helps positive affect through thoughts. A supportive academic setting reduces negative affect in general and anxiety in particular and increases academic motivation.