

ASCD STUDY GUIDE

The Reflective Educator



Pre-Viewing Reflection

1. How do you currently define capacity?

2. Read the following quotes. Underline a word or a phrase from each quote that best resonates with you.

"The one factor that can make the most difference in improving student achievement is a knowledgeable, skillful teacher in front of the classroom." –*What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*

"Success [in education] hinges on what happens at the classroom level."
–*Making Standards Work*

"Improved classroom instruction is the prime factor to produce student achievement gains."
–*Leveraging Teacher Pay*

"Decades of research suggest that effective teachers can have a tremendous, positive effect on student success." –*The 12 Touchstones of Good Teaching*

3. Using the words or phrases you underlined above, craft a sentence that summarizes the findings of education researchers over the past two decades when it comes to the number-one factor in student achievement.

4. Describe the best classroom teacher you've ever had the opportunity to observe. What observables made this teacher great? What nonobservables made this teacher great?

5. What role has reflection played in building your professional capacity?

Beginning of the Year Chapter

1. The Building Teacher Capacity (BTC) Framework hinges on seven fundamentals that support a system of reflective practice. What evidence of the following BTC fundamentals were you able to observe in the first chapter?

Relationships:

Roles:

Responsibilities:

2. Describe how the principal set her expectations for the year with her instructional coach.

3. Describe how the principal set her expectations for the year with her staff.

4. Explain how the instructional coach and the principal work in tandem, but still remain distinct in their roles.

Unaware–Action Stage

1. Explain the characteristics of an Unaware-stage teacher.

2. What was Nicole’s goal for the year?

3. How does Nicole’s placement on the Continuum of Self-Reflection guide the work of the instructional coach and the principal?

4. Describe the differentiated coaching strategies Gia used as she supported Nicole’s professional growth.

Coaching Strategy	Purpose

5. In what ways did Prim support Nicole’s professional growth over the school year?

6. What type of differentiated feedback did Principal Prim use?

7. In what ways did Nicole grow as a reflective practitioner this year?

Conscious–Action Stage

1. Explain the characteristics of a Conscious-stage teacher.

2. What was Kris’s goal for the year?

3. How does Kris’s placement on the Continuum of Self-Reflection guide the work of the instructional coach and the principal?

4. Describe the differentiated coaching strategies Gia used as she supported Kris’s professional growth.

Coaching Strategy	Purpose

5. In what ways did Prim support Kris’s professional growth over the school year?

6. What type of differentiated feedback did Principal Prim use?

7. In what ways did Kris grow as a reflective practitioner this year?

Action–Refinement Stage

1. Explain the characteristics of an Action-stage teacher.

2. What was Kim’s goal for the year?

3. How does Kim’s placement on the Continuum of Self-Reflection guide the work of the instructional coach and the principal?

4. Describe the differentiated coaching strategies Gia used as she supported Kim’s professional growth.

Coaching Strategy	Purpose

5. In what ways did Prim support Kim’s professional growth over the school year?

6. What type of differentiated feedback did Principal Prim use?

7. In what ways did Kim grow as a reflective practitioner this year?

Post-Viewing Reflection

1. What does a schoolwide system of reflective practice require of the site principal?

2. What does reflective practice require of teachers?

3. How does an emphasis on reflection through action build teachers' capacity?

4. How does an emphasis on reflection through action move teachers from a state of compliance to a deeper level of commitment?

5. You've seen capacity-building in action. Looking back at your pre-viewing definition of the term: capacity, how would you define the concept now?

References

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