

Classroom Tips from Ron

Give Them Their 80 Tip #2 – Harness the Power of Reflection

Personal or group reflection is a powerful tool. At the end of the nine weeks, for example, teachers can pause and reflect on that first quarter of the school year, asking themselves the following questions:

During the past nine-week grading period, did I...

1. Provide opportunities for student-to-student conversations that allowed them to work in the comprehension level of Bloom?
2. Break my class periods or blocks into eight- or ten-minute segments that permitted my students to alternately stand, move, and sit?
3. Get my students up for a minute of exercises that will release serotonin, dopamine, and other neurotransmitters?
4. Work into my plans opportunities for student-to-student conversations, or discussions in trios or small groups?
5. Provide a few minutes of student processing following a short lecture or video?

These five tips are important components in the continuous-improvement journeys of students of any age.

The most effective teachers I have observed over the past two decades incorporate movement, student-to-student discussion, and frequent physical and mental state changes into their lessons.

Take a look at next week's lessons on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Are there places where what has to be done can be done standing, in pairs or trios, or in groups of four or five?