FINDING YOUR FOCUS: ESTABLISH A PERSONAL VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

As with any journey, we must begin by deciding where we want to go, how we can get there, who can help us get there, and why we want to go there in the first place. Use this page to think about the year to come, taking into consideration both the expected and the unexpected. Use the diagram below to help you find your focus for the year ahead. It is blank, as all the quads throughout the *Teaching Better Day by Day* planner will be, because the story of the year ahead is yours to write, and the themes, motifs, roles, and responsibilities are yours to define. Of course, your life has more than four domains, but this page in this planner asks you to find and focus on the four roles, responsibilities, or relationships in your personal life that will matter to you most in the year ahead.

HOW: So how can I help? What can I do? In short: **do not add** to her demands and burdens. Ask her how I can help, what I can do, get, etc.? Keep a close eye on her spirits and energy. Flowers. Small acts. Support any way you can.

HOW: I spent summer reading about health, habits; lost 16 lbs in two months. Regular cycling. Slept more, which made big difference in diet, brain. Fly fished more than ever.

WHY: The year ahead will inevitably be more difficult for Susan <u>because</u> with Ann in a cast, in bed for next two months--than before. Also: She has to find and manage the estate, our business/financial demands, and those related to her mother.

WHY: Summer revealed: increased loss of hearing, broken tooth, extraction, replacement; prediabetic diagnosis, which means I need to take it seriously.

1 SUSAN

Always the top priority because she is my most sacred, important obligation. Without he, nothing is possible.

2 HEALTH

Various health issues/crises in recent years make it clear, along with upcoming retirement, that I need to pay much more attention to my health.

2021-22

4 JOY

I need to make more room for this feeling--on the river, at GV, with Susan, our kids, at work, as well.

3 RETIREMENT

Plan and prep for retirement to ensure we are financially prepared for retirement next year.

WHY: Not something I have every identified as a major goal or focus--but it's time. Joy, for myself, for Susan, for <u>us</u>. Will be plenty of work--but most focus on balance and slowing down.

WHY: Last year I had hoped to retire—but not enough \$\$. I'll be 60 in November. All is paid off except GV and Nora's upcoming wedding. This is the year to save, cut expenses.

HOW: In so many ways, this item really does amount to slowing down, stopping to smell--or even plant!--the roses. Build in the time to walk, ride, fish, read--for your own pleasure, not just to teach or write books.

HOW: The main things to do are cut down on spending, costs, books. You have set yourself up. Now do, enjoy.

Use the space below to reflect on the contents of your quad above. You might consider starting a separate journal to reflect in greater depth as you move through and compose the story of this year.

HOW: This is, inevitably and clearly, a pivotal year both personally and professionally. On the personal side, I look ahead to June 2022 and envision ("begin with the end in mind") Susan and myself as healthy, ready to meet the demands of our retirement--and enjoy it in a way we can sustain. I want to feel healthy, revitalized--not exhausted as I was at the end of last year. I also need to do more to leave my work at workand come home ready and eager to devote my time, energy, and attention to the items listed above in this diagram.



Scan the QR code to find a filled-in example of these charts.

16

FINDING YOUR FOCUS: ESTABLISH A PROFESSIONAL VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Now is the time to pause and think about where you are in your career and your growth as a teacher. What are the big changes you are preparing for or making this year? How do your essential roles and responsibilities fit in with the other demands of your life and the direction you see yourself taking as an educator in the coming years? Use this page to think about the year ahead, taking into consideration both the expected and the unexpected. Use the diagram, as you did in the PERSONAL version, to help you find your professional focus for the year ahead. It is blank, because the story of the year ahead is yours to write, and the themes, motifs, roles, and responsibilities are yours to define. Of course, your life has more than four domains, but this page in this planner asks you to find and focus on those four roles, responsibilities, or relationships in your personal life that will matter to you most in the year ahead.

HOW: First, I can/should use the req'd full-eva tool and rubric to really target and drill down on evaluation with possible uses for subsequent articles, book(s). AE and AR are most likely projects to focus on

HOW: While online, 1:1 advisories were a BIG part of MC program; Will need to work on how to keep 1:1's at same level in-person while using online option also for those who choose it. Also, to supplement <u>past</u>-advisees and non-advisees who are in my classes.

WHY: This is my last chance to observe, make notes, etc as a classroom teacher. Also, am getting full evaluation this year, so must do this anyway. So I will commit to doing it correct, i.e., the best I can for this one last time.

WHY: Whatever academic or emotional or existential needs students have, this year they will be recovering and learning from last 1.5 years of COVID. Ss will need support on all sides, of all types, some more than others, no doubt.

1 TEACHER

This will be my last year as a full-time in-class, English teacher and one who has studied and shared what I learn through my books and talks.

2 ADVISOR

Ss in general and advisees in particular will be in serious need this year after last year of COVID.

2021-22

4 LEARNER

Just a general sense that there are a lot of things I need to learn about or learn more about regarding teens, mental health, SEL and academic skills

3 COLLEAGUE

After last year (COVID), we need to regroup, recreate a sense of ourselves as a team.

WHY: I feel I need to learn more about CRT, critical theory in general; also to learn more about the different type of students we have at MC, as these were important issues/situations before COVID, likely only more difficult in wake of COVID and return to inperson school.

WHY: The culture at work is much less tolerant of diverging views than I realized. So I need to work on better understanding who thinks what, and why they think it; also, better understand group dynamics in workplace, especially when group is small.

HOW: This stems in part from all reading I did this summer. I do not need more books--but the time to READ, REFLECT, and RESPOND to the ideas in those I already have.

HOW: I feel like my main actions here are more about restoration. Do not participate in online/text chains. Energy suck. Focus on asking Qs that clarify, question, challenge in a useful way what the team does, says, thinks.

Use the space below to reflect on the contents of your quad above. You might consider starting a separate journal to reflect in greater depth as you move through and compose the story of this year.

HOW: These four domains are specific to school, but 2021-22 is a BIG year for me as a writer, also: new books out in the fall and spring from Norton and Corwin. Also I need to focus on supporting and already beginning to create the next edition of these in small, informal ways as I begin to make the transition towards the narrative book (working title *An American Education?*) and other projects I have been preparing to write in the coming years.



Scan the QR code to find a filled-in example of these charts.

17

burke Book.indb 17