

Chapter 1 Study Questions

For Professional Learning Communities, SEAD/ SEL Courses, or Book Study Groups

1. What is currently on your plate that causes you to neglect what or who you value? Do you have a person in your life who reminds you to keep your priorities in order? If not, can you think of a person to designate?
2. How do you keep “what’s first, first?”
3. What did you notice when you considered who was *not* on your list? Was there a way in which this realization caused in you a desire to refocus your priorities? Please explain.
4. When you considered whose list you might be on, if specific people came to mind, please explain why you would like to be on their lists. What specific actions or ways of being do you practice that would cause another to include you on his or her list?
5. Can you speculate as to who might be on your students’ lists? Would their lists be similar to each other? Why or why not?
6. What are your strengths in regard to meeting your colleagues where they are? Do you have any areas of growth or barriers upon which to reflect? Please explain.
7. What do you do to recognize and connect with the student “behind the façade?”
8. Put yourself in the shoes of a student who is asked, “Why did you do that?” or “What were you thinking?” How would you react if a colleague asked you one of those questions?
9. Can you think of a time when it would have been productive to admit to a student that you do not understand his or her perspective or experience and would therefore appreciate guidance?
10. After respect is identified within the classroom, how might you address the need for code-switching (or the need for a separate backpack)?