# Using Reflection As a Tool To Teach With And Assess What Really Matters

Reflection is a powerful tool that can be used to teach with and assess what really matters. It can help students to develop their critical thinking skills, their ability to learn from their mistakes, and their capacity for empathy. This article will explore the different ways that reflection can be used in the classroom, and it will provide some tips on how to get started.



Be Awesome on Purpose: Using reflection as a tool to teach with C.A.R.E. and assess what really matters

by Bonnie Nieves

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#### What is reflection?

Reflection is the process of thinking about and evaluating one's own thoughts, feelings, and actions. It can be done individually or in a group setting, and it can take many different forms, such as writing, journaling, talking, or drawing. Reflection helps us to make sense of our experiences, to learn from our mistakes, and to grow as individuals.

### Why is reflection important in education?

Reflection is important in education because it helps students to develop the following skills:

- Critical thinking: Reflection helps students to develop their critical thinking skills by encouraging them to question their assumptions, to analyze information, and to make judgments.
- Learning from mistakes: Reflection helps students to learn from their mistakes by encouraging them to identify what went wrong and to develop strategies for avoiding similar mistakes in the future.
- Empathy: Reflection helps students to develop their empathy by encouraging them to consider the perspectives of others and to understand their feelings.

#### How can reflection be used in the classroom?

There are many different ways that reflection can be used in the classroom. Some common methods include:

- Written reflections: Written reflections are a great way for students to record their thoughts and feelings about their learning experiences.
  They can be used to summarize what they have learned, to identify areas where they need improvement, or to set goals for future learning.
- Journaling: Journaling is a more personal form of reflection that allows students to explore their thoughts and feelings in a private setting.
  Journals can be used to record daily experiences, to reflect on specific events, or to track progress over time.

- Talking circles: Talking circles are a group discussion format that encourages students to share their thoughts and feelings in a safe and supportive environment. Talking circles can be used to reflect on specific topics, to solve problems, or to build community.
- Drawing: Drawing is a creative form of reflection that can help students to express their thoughts and feelings in a non-verbal way. Drawings can be used to represent experiences, to explore emotions, or to develop new ideas.

### Tips for getting started with reflection

If you are new to using reflection in the classroom, here are a few tips to get you started:

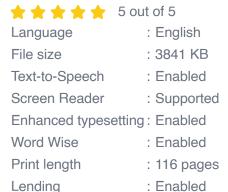
- Start small: Don't try to implement reflection all at once. Start with one or two simple activities, and gradually add more as you become more comfortable with the process.
- Be patient: Reflection takes time and practice. Don't expect students to become reflective overnight. Be patient and provide plenty of opportunities for them to practice.
- Make it relevant: Reflection is most effective when it is connected to students' real-world experiences. Choose activities that are meaningful to students and that allow them to reflect on their own learning.
- Provide feedback: Feedback is essential for helping students to develop their reflective skills. Provide students with regular feedback on their reflections, and help them to identify areas where they can improve.

Reflection is a powerful tool that can be used to teach with and assess what really matters. It can help students to develop their critical thinking skills, their ability to learn from their mistakes, and their capacity for empathy. By using reflection in the classroom, you can help your students to become more reflective learners and to develop the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

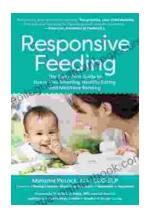


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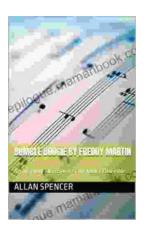






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