

Professional Learning Community 1.4
Chapter 9 Essays 1-3 of Teaching Science is Phenomenal (TSiP)
Essays on Science Teaching and Learning - Relationships

How do other aspects of the educational system affect science teaching and learning?

Pre-Session and Review

Reading

1. Come to the PLC having read Essays 1-3 in Chapter 9.
2. Start the PLC by dividing into three sub-groups to discuss one of the three: Essays 1 or 2 or 3. Each section of the full group discussion will be initiated with a summary by the assigned sub-groups.

A. Round Robin Style Discussion – The full group listens as each of the three sub-groups present their ideas specific to the questions below.

- a) Why are relationships important for science teaching and learning?
- b) What is the central idea presented in the essay your sub-group discussed?

B. Whole Group Discussion – Bring science-specific examples and experiences from your teaching to support the discussion of the questions below.

Reflecting on Science and Engineering Practices

Essay One

- 1) Why is it important for teachers to model aspects of science learning, such as active listening?
- 2) What are some effective strategies you use in your classroom to foster an intellectually safe environment?
- 3) Why should students' enjoyment of learning be a central concern for an effective learning environment?
- 4) What are other important factors for creating a positive and intellectually safe learning environment?

Essay Two

- 5) What are some strategies you use to cultivate positive relationships with parents of your students?
- 6) Describe one of the documents you use to communicate science learning goals with parents?

Essay Three

- 7) How can you best foster civil discourse in the classroom?
- 8) How does civility in the classroom contribute to science learning?
- 9) Why should civil discourse be an important outcome for science education in a democratic society?

Putting it all together

- 10) What are common themes across Essays 1-3 in chapter 9?
- 11) How does your classroom cultivate the ideas described in these three essays?

C. Individual Reflections – Write in Journal

- a) A wise principal once told me that in order to be a good teacher you must first be a good person. Reflect on how the relationships in your classroom extend beyond the school.

ⁱ Use the back of the page to answer the questions.