



The First Years Matter

Becoming an Effective Teacher

May Novice Teacher Memo

“Good teachers listen to their students and care how their students are doing academically.”

High School Student (page 214 *The First Years Matter* book)



A MESSAGE to Novice Teachers

If you are receiving this memo, your mentor has forwarded it to you because you are using *The First Years Matter* as a resource. The purpose of this memo is to focus you on some important pages in the book that emphasize your self-care. You are getting closer to the end of the school year and this often brings on more stress and anxiety. Skim the pages in the May chapter to see how you can focus on student assessment as the “whole” student. See where progress has been made that is not measured in test scores. Part of becoming an effective teacher is “leading by example” and modeling balance for your students. What will you do to take care of yourself this month?

Balance. Inspire. Lead. Transform from the 

When you take care of yourself, you model self-care for your students.

Carol

[\(Listen to a message from Carol\)](#)

Carol Pelletier Radford EdD
Founder, Mentoring in Action



NEW TEACHER PHASE

In May, you are entering the reflection phase. It is here you reminisce about your successes as well as your challenges. This reflection phase will enable you to begin thinking about how to implement various strategies and techniques for next year!



CONNECTIONs

Review page 220 and consider utilizing informal [student self-assessment](#) questions to gauge the overall student perception of the class (and class material).



REFLECT

Effective teachers take the time to reflect alone and with their mentor.



Choose a bubble stem on page 231 and complete it in your book or using the [Novice Teacher journal](#) available from Corwin.

ACTIONS



When you meet with your mentor, you want the conversations to focus on your needs. Here are ways to help your mentor best support you!

- Reflect on your own needs using The First Act on page 221.
- Review the Overview of Acts on page 222 and choose one (or two).
- Read page 225, Act 3, to identify the three specific types of assessments given to students. It is crucial you understand how each type of assessment measures students’ knowledge of concepts.

Take some time for YOU! What can you do today that will refresh your spirit?



Watch the videos, [Reflections of the Power of Teachers](#) and [The Power of a Teacher](#). As the year is quickly coming to an end, you need to take time to realize just how special your job is (as well as the impact you have)! It’s really important to realize that you do make a difference!

Review page 233 for more ideas!