

Teacher Identity:

Understand Your Journey



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The Teaching Journey



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Attitudinal Phases of Beginning Teachers

(Moir, 2011)



- **Anticipation Phase**: excited & anxious; tremendous commitment to making a difference; romanticize
- **Survival Phase**: overwhelming; bombarded by things unanticipated; reality check; struggle to keep above water; consumed with day-to-day; curriculum & lesson planning time suck
- **Disillusionment Phase**: extensive time commitment; low morale; many experience illness; formal evaluations; parent conferences; self doubt; lower self esteem; question professional commitment
- **Rejuvenation**: slow rise in attitude toward teaching; have had some rest; includes vacation; relief; more focus on big picture and long term curriculum & instruction
- **Reflection**: invigorating; thinking about what/how to revise for next school year; feelings of pride & new anticipation



Developmental Stages of Beginning Teachers

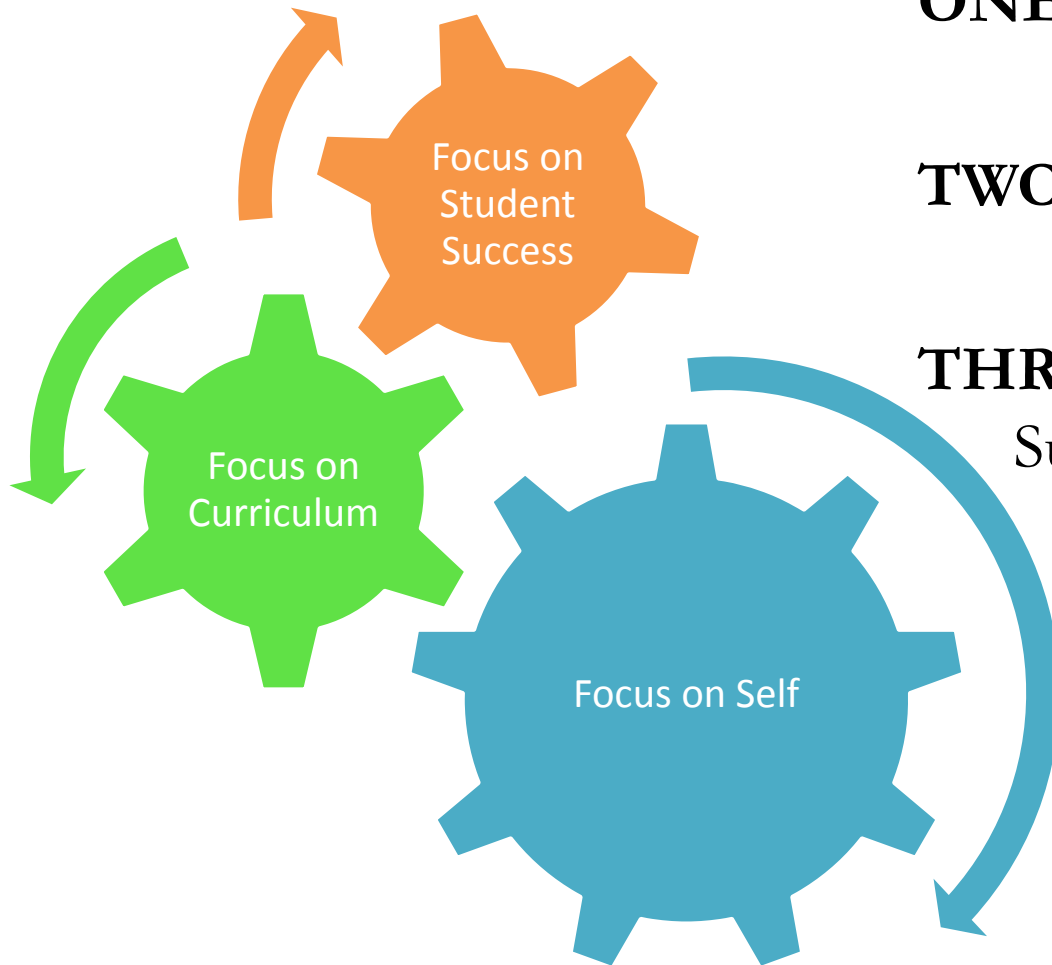
(FULLER & BROWN, 1979)



ONE: Survival Stage (Self)

TWO: Task Stage (Curriculum)

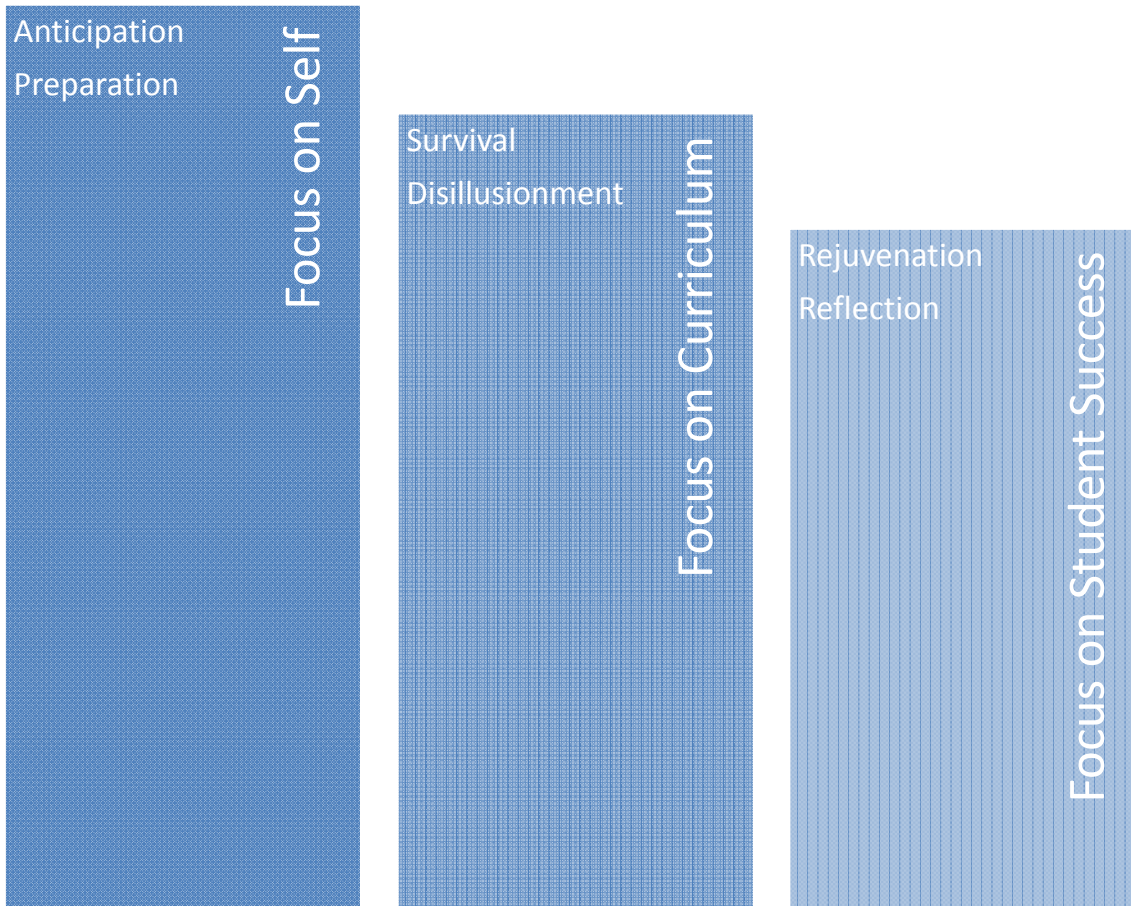
THREE: Impact Stage (Student Success)



*Small but important detail:
Stages are not
necessarily linear.*

Contemporary Definitions of Self & Identity

(ROGERS & SCOTT, 2012)



1. Dependent on multiple contexts, form via social, cultural, and historical forces
2. Formed in relationships with others & involves emotion
3. It is shifting, unstable, layered
4. Involves construction, deconstruction, & reconstruction of meaning through experience

Above/Below Timeline Activity



Focus on Self as Teacher:

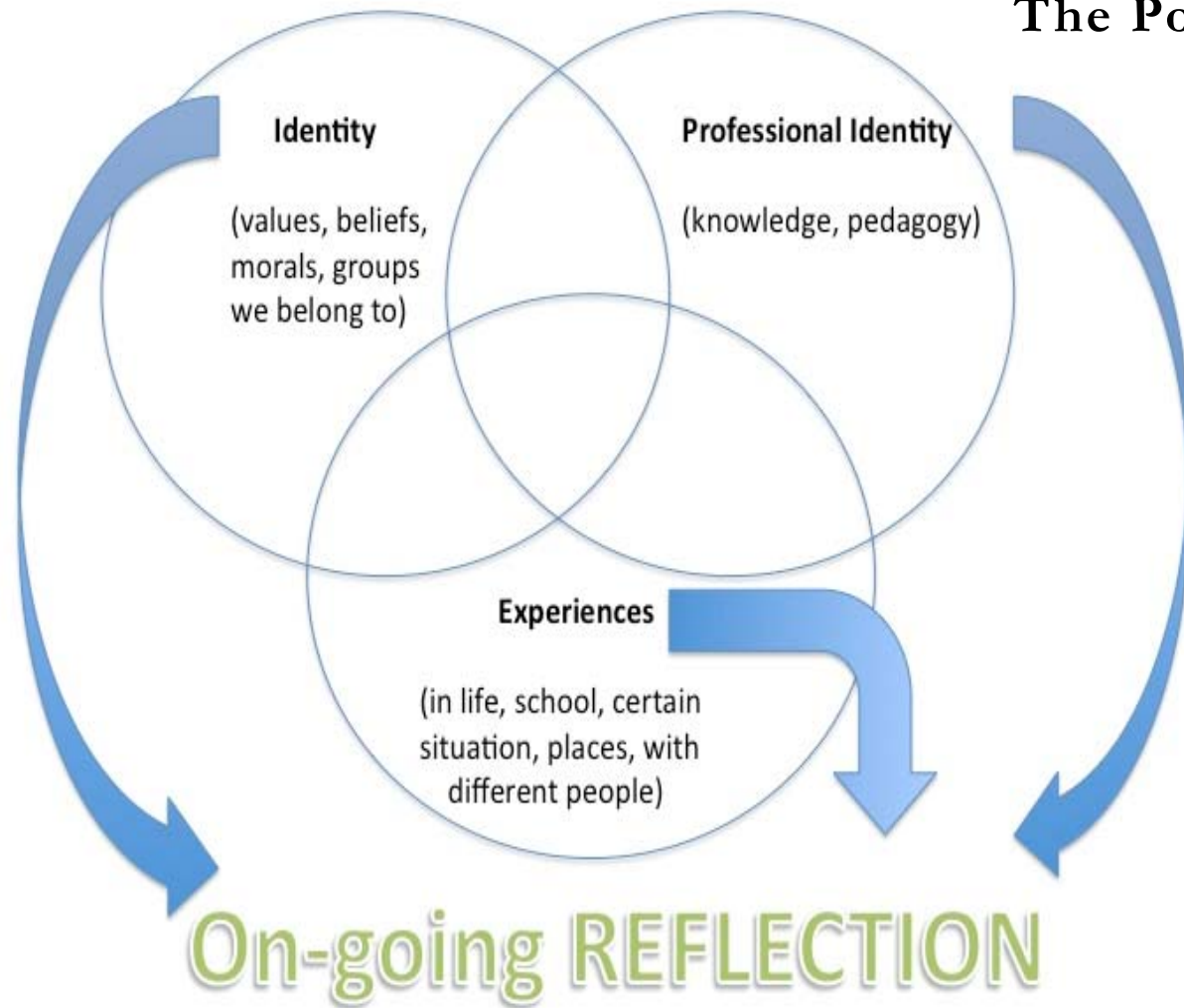
Engaging with your teacher identity

Reflect on
your own
schooling
experiences

- 1) Create a timeline of your schooling, starting with kindergarten through college.
- 2) For each year, think about your teachers, how they taught and your experiences in that grade. Describe your relationships with authority, peers, and kids.
- 3) Write the positive experiences above the line, and the negative experiences below the line
- 4) Reflect: What do these experiences do to shape your identity as a teacher?

What falls above
and below the your
personal academic
timeline?

Now What?



The Power of Teacher Identity:

- Why does teacher identity matter to me/my students/my classroom?
- What do I do with my understanding of who I am or will become as a teacher?
- How can I survive the phases of the first year?

Knowing is Half the Battle



ANTICIPATION

Teacher Perspective

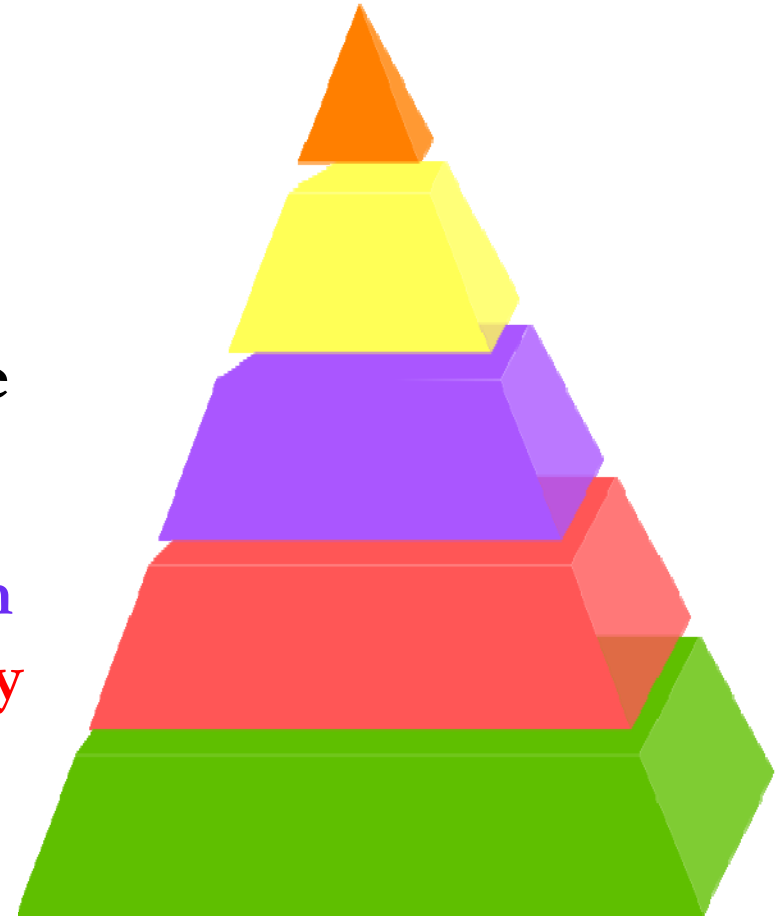
Student Perception



Reflect & Respond: Think, Write, Speak



- Identify your teacher self and voice using a pyramid statement.
 - **One word that represents my teaching**
 - **Two verbs that I do well in the classroom**
 - **Three adjectives that describe my successes in the classroom**
 - **Four positive influences on my teacher identity**
 - **My five word teaching statement that sums up my teaching and classroom**



References



Feiman & Nesmer, 2008

Fuller & Brown, 1975

Henry, et al., 2013

Ingersoll, 2012

Ingersoll & Merrill, 2010

Kane, et al., 2006

Moir, 2011

Rogers & Scott, 2012