

Building Relationships to Inform Instructional Plans
Adapted from Shanna Peeples: Think Like Socrates

Connective Thread	Explanation	Related PL Elements <i>Explanation of each element</i>	Related HOM <i>Explanation of each habit</i>
Building Relationships in the Service of Learning	Connecting with students and learning about who they are, where they come from, what their interests are, and what they dream about or aspire to do	Instructional Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Listening with understanding and empathy ● Applying past knowledge ● Finding humor

Purpose:

The following prompts are designed for learning more about who your students are so that you can:

- Know them as they see themselves
- Learn more about their strengths and contributions they can make to the classroom culture
- Provide a scaffold for co-creating ideas and questions that might lead to investigations
- Find connections between their lives, interests and aspirations and the academic content of the class

Although many teachers use a variation of some of these questions, when personalizing learning the idea is to connect the personal to the academic. These questions should be used to gather data about students that can be used to facilitate learning. Consider using some at different times of the school year. Or, perhaps, ask the same question two or three times to see if there is a change in interests or successes.

Writing Prompts:

- What name do you want me to use for you? *This signals that you want to be respectful of the student's identity.*
- What are you looking forward to learning this year? *This provides a lens into interests.*
- Who would you like me to call when I have good news about you to share? Please write their names and phone numbers. *This shows the student that you intend to celebrate their success.*
- What are you good at inside of school? *This gives students a chance to tell you something about where they are with their learning.*
- What are you good at outside of school? *This gives you information about what they feel good about and their other interests.*

- What was the last book, movie, TV show, or song you really liked? Why did you like it? *Knowing how to facilitate making connections.*
- What's easiest about school for you?
- What's hardest about school for you?
- When you are having a tough time, what are the signs?
- How does it feel to see your classmates again?
- What would your friends say about you?
- What would you like me to know about you? *This is a way of inviting in what might usually remain hidden.*
- If you could study anything, what would you want to know more about? *A good question to get at where there might be a passion for learning.*
- What questions do you have for me? (I will personally respond back to you.) *This is a nice way to feel a sense of mutuality in the enterprise.*

Add for older students...

Please share your schedule with me so I better understand what your day is like.

Wake up:

Responsibilities before school:

Responsibilities after school:

Time when you start homework:

Time you go to sleep: