

Handout

Mentoring Conversation Vignettes

1. You are a 4th grade elementary teacher questioning the effectiveness of your classroom management skills when your students are asked to work in small groups. You are struggling to attend to each group's needs, keep them on task, and ensure they are meeting learning goals.
2. You are a middle school science teacher feeling pressured that you don't have enough time in the classroom to engage the students in hands-on activities that would cement their understanding of new concepts. You want to use some cooperative learning and even include some content area reading strategies, but you just seem to run out of time, and the students don't manage themselves well.
3. You are a high school English teacher feeling you have all of the students' attention at the beginning of a lesson, but halfway through a lesson some of the students in the back have lost their focus and are doing other things. Yesterday, a student in the back row misunderstood the directions and incorrectly completed most of the assignment.
4. You are a special education teacher who has a couple of students who raise their hand for absolutely everything. You don't want to discourage them, but they end up dominating the discussion. They get really upset when you don't call on them.
5. You are an elementary grade teacher who loves when your students are learning through hands on activities, and you want to do more. However, you feel you end up with chaos and a ton of questions about how they are supposed to do the task. The noise level is also really hard for you.
6. You are a kindergarten teacher having trouble with Josh. He often refuses to do the task at hand, challenges Stacy when she tries to redirect him, and many times screams to get the other students' attention. Stacy says the other children don't like to play or work with Josh because he is bossy. At times, he has pinched or pushed classmates to get his way.

Adapted from: <http://www.stitch.edu/sewntp>