

Book Review

The Highly Effective Teacher 7 Classroom–Tested Practices That Foster Student Success, by, Jeff C. Marshall, Alexandria, Virginia, USA: ASCD, 2016

By

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The author of “The Highly Effective Teacher 7 Classroom Tested Practices that Foster Student Success” is Dr. Jeff C. Marshall who is Professor in the Eugene T. Moore School at Clemson University and is the Director of the Inquiry in Motion Institute with the mission of facilitating teacher transformation in K–12 mathematics and science classrooms using rigorous and authentic inquiry–based learning experiences. He includes an assessment which can be downloaded at www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/books/marshall.pdf. The password is marshall/7001/. Dr. Jeff C. Marshall asks many critical questions that help us to think about our teaching.

The book considers seven clusters of the Teacher Intentionality of Practice Scale (TIPS). The TIPS include:

- TIP 1: Coherent, Connected Learning Progression
- TIP 2: Strategies, Resources, and Technologies that Enhance Learning
- TIP 3: Safe, Respectful, Well–Organized Learning Environment
- TIP 4: Challenging, Rigorous Learning Experiences
- TIP 5: Interactive, Thoughtful Learning
- TIP 6: Creative, Problem–Solving Culture
- TIP 7: Monitoring, Assessment, and Feedback That Guide and Inform Instruction and

Learning

- TIP 1: Coherent, Connected Learning Progression

Teaching a coherent lesson is not always easy. Sometimes schools fall into a “garbage in, garbage out” (GIGO for short) approach.

TIP 1 focuses mostly on two questions: 1. Does your lesson provide a coherent learning progression that unites both skills and knowledge (Learning Progression)? 2. Is your lesson connected to both the student and to the bigger picture (Connectedness of Learning)?

We need to think about:

- Do you know if your instruction is accurate?
- Is your lesson clear, logically sequenced and well aligned with the goals/objectives?
- How do you integrate skills and knowledge?
- How do you connect your lesson to the bigger picture within the discipline and to other disciplines?
- How do you connect your lesson to your student's lives? Actions that may help include:

Check your content knowledge to maximize accuracy and clarity.

Have well-aligned lessons.

Use questions that are essential to connect learning.

Decide how your lesson connects to students.

TIP 2 Strategies, Resources, and Technologies That Enhance Learning

This chapter focuses on strategies and resources including technologies that are used to guide instructional practice.

TIP 2 mainly focuses on two questions: 1. Do selected strategies engage all learners? 2. How do the resources and technologies provide purpose, enhance engagement, and potentially transform the learning experience?

Student-Centered Strategies

- How was your teaching visual and concrete? Which was first, the concrete or abstract?
- How did you actively involve all learners?
- What student-centered strategies are the most valuable for learning?

Resources and Technologies

What resources and technologies support making learning concrete and visual?

- What technologies and visuals are least effective?

There are certain actions that are suggested:

- Engage the Senses—Make it Concrete
What are three ways to make this happen?
- Get off the Sidelines—Engage Learners
What can you do to accomplish this?

- Move Beyond “Monkey See, Monkey Do” to Student–Centered Learning
What strategies can we use to engage a variety of students?

Is IT it? Improve Effectiveness of Technologies

- How should we spend limited funds on technology?
Ensure Purposeful, Transformative Technologies—Not Flash and Glitz
- What is your goal for using technologies?
TIP 3 Safe, Respectful, Well–Organized Learning Environment

Classroom Flow

- How can we create a smoother–running, better learning environment?
- How can we use activities to create this?
- How do we begin and end the class?
- Are the most common routines and procedures safe, effective, and minimally disruptive?

Classroom Interaction

- What is the expected behavior in your class and do students meet these expectations?
- How do others describe your classroom presence? What do you do to improve this?
- Is your class respectful, supportive and approachable?

There are the following recommendations:

- Maximize Instructional Flow
How can you increase this?
- Use Efficient Procedures to Gain Effective Learning
What helps to make your class more effective?
- Ring the Bell Differently to Create Positive Habits and Routines
How can you more effectively begin and end class?
- Be Proactive
How can you become more proactive at the beginning of the year?
- Build Your Presence as a Teacher
What can we do to become more effective?

TIP 4 Challenging Rigorous Learning Expectations

TIP 4 mainly focuses on two questions. 1. How do we create a climate of high expectations and a willingness to persevere? 2. How do the learning experiences challenge the learner in an appropriate way?

Culture of Challenge

- How do you know you have set the expectations appropriately high?
- How can we encourage persistence, perseverance, and self-monitoring?

Instructional Challenge

- What is the minimum level of work that we should accept?
- How can we best scaffold the learning?
- How do we promote self-control and delayed gratification in the classroom?

Remember the “Marshmallow Test” and Build Student’s Self-Control

- In what ways can we promote self-control and delayed gratification in the classroom?

Build Perseverance—But Know When to Toss in the Life Preserver

- How can we build this in our students?
Match the Challenge to Current Ability
- How can we increase the level to challenge students?

Rethink Your Finish Line and Take a New Look at Differentiation

- How can we individualize instruction more?

TIP 5 Interactive, Thoughtful, Learning

This TIP 5 focuses on: 1. Can we promote a culture of rich interactivity? 2. How does your lesson promote thoughtful purposeful engagement?

Culture of Interactivity

- In what ways can we encourage participation from all our students?
- Facilitating purposeful conversations while motivating and engaging students is important.
- How do we provide opportunities for students to engage in both interpersonal (collaborative) interactions and interpersonal (individual, reflective) learning experiences?

Depth of Engagement

- What do we do to ensure that our lessons are purposeful and personal for our students?

Actions for TIP 5

- Constructive Engaging Questions
How can we stimulate students through questions?
- Frame Questions and Conversations Around How and Why
How can we improve our questions and conversations?
- Move from Self-Centered to Learning-Centered Learning
What changes can we begin to create more idea-centric classes? How can we make this a part of normal learning?
Increase Purpose and Relevance
- How can we better appeal to the emotional side of our students?
Increase Expectations by Asking Students to Explain, Reason.
- How can we better have students explain and justify their work?

TIP 6 Creative, Problem Solving Culture

This TIP 6 is concerned about two questions: 1. How do we create an inquisitive learning environment (Creative Culture)? 2. How do we create learning experiences that encourage creativity and problem solving (Problem Solving Environment)?

Creative Culture

- In order to create this we have to be willing to take risks.
- What steps need to be taken to improve a culture of creativity and questioning in our classrooms

Problem-Solving Environment

- How do our lessons provide students an opportunity to tackle complex, open-ended problems?
- How will students have opportunities to consider multiple perspectives or alternate solutions?
- How can we help students to explore concepts?

Actions for TIP 6

Promote Creative Thought with an “Hourglass” Approach to Learning

- What story can we tell that will engage students in questioning events or the world around them?

- Plan “FedEx Days” to Encourage Curiosity and Creativity
- How are students given the opportunity to be creative and deliver “FedEx Days” their creativity?

Recognize and Encourage Risk by Encouraging Open-Ended Learning

- How can students bring real-world questions into our classrooms?

Other Multiple Perspectives

- How can we reward our lessons to include complex problems that have multiple solution paths?

Promote Explore Before Explain—and Save the Punch Line for Last

- Can we think of three recent opportunities for students to explore before we explained the major concept?

TIP 7 Monitoring Instruction and Feedback That Guide and Inform Instruction and Learning

TIP 7 focuses on two questions: 1. How do your assessments support student learning (Feedback Guided Learning). 2. What do formative assessments tell about progress related to your lesson unit goals?

Feedback Guided Learning

- What are examples that your lesson was clear, specific and valued?
- What feedback from students helps you?

Formative Assessments

- How does data regarding students inform your instruction?
- In what ways do you understand the prior learning of your students?
- How well did you close or debrief the lesson with the students?

Actions for TIP 7

Eliminate Errors, Blunders, and Misconceptions with Purposeful Feedback

- How can we provide more meaningful feedback?
- How can we require greater participation regarding homework?

Ensure a “Bon Voyage” with Formative Assessments

In what ways are we using formative assessments?

- How often and how do we use formative assessments to compare learning and retention of knowledge and skills?

Chose Assessment Strategies That Maximize Results

- What are 15 to 20 types of formative assessments that we can use in the classroom?

Get Creative with Approaches to Lesson Closure

- How do we debrief or close our lessons in a creative way?

He indicates that what is important is to help students be creative. Facts are secondary, not primary, drivers of learning.

Conclusion

This is a book that helps us to understand more about teaching. It helps us to think about important questions.

Critique

This is a well-written book that is practical and helpful.

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