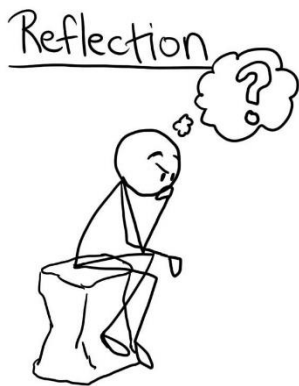




Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week!

Reflection and Pacing!

The other day, I went back to the office after teaching my class, and found myself going through this exhausting, but helpful, process of reflection as I combed through my lesson line by line. "How in the world was my timing so off to the point where I didn't get to my closing exit activity?," I kept asking myself. Having made some serious adjustments to my planning since starting the year with our new schedule, I seemed to have found myself in a better place with my timing and pacing until the other day. "Where did I lose those 7 minutes?, What threw me off?" After backtracking for a bit, it seemed clear that my motivation took a little more time than anticipated as well as a brief, yet unexpected, conversation that I had with a student about an assignment. In retrospect, that brief conversation could have waited until after class and my motivation didn't need both a scenario activity and a song.



What I have found is that being reflective has helped me to grow professionally and has helped me to improve my craft over the years. We all encounter challenges in the classroom that can "throw us off" – technology issues (Oh, that dreaded spinning circle), thinking that you made 34 handouts and when you hand them out there seems to be 30, a student feeling under the weather that requires a call to the nurse, fire drill, etc. The list goes on and on. In our profession, we all have become experts in making adjustments, quick pivots, and flexibility with items that are, at times, beyond our control. But there are some things that we can control to improve our pacing and being reflective is at the heart of it.

Please continue to discuss, and share, best practices with regards to lesson adjustments and pacing, curriculum modifications, and pacing calendars in your department/teacher teams. Ongoing reflection will be key to growth and **CARE**. Included in this Instructional Tip are a few interesting articles. [Article 1](#) provides a good reflection strategy for teachers and the second article ([Article 2](#)) was written during the pandemic but provides relevant post pandemic suggestions for teachers.



I look forward to our work ahead, our continued reflections, and our efforts to "plan with a purpose." I thank you all for your dedication and commitment to the students of Edward R. Murrow High School. Have a great week!

*... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!*