



5 Minute Activity

Education is a Partnership Between the Schools and the Community

Read the following excerpt from *Leadership Values of the Clovis Unified School District* (p. 96) and then discuss one of the prompts below.

Doc always said, the establishment and operation of a school district must be the responsibility of the district's leaders, teachers, and parents. Without a smooth working relationship among all members of a school community, problems develop that can erode the confidence in the educational system and the ability of the practitioners to complete their job, which is education of the community's youth.

Doc knew that without smooth working relationships between all members of the school community problems would arise. One way to ensure you have smooth relationships is to make sure you connect with people; students, employees, parents, business partners. Former Superintendent, Dr. Janet Young, was known for her ability to connect with people, to listen to what they were saying before responding.

In his blog *Five Steps for Connecting with Others*, John Maxwell, shares his insights into how to connect by listening to others. He begins by saying, "Connection is a critical part of leadership, because you can't lead if no one will follow. You have to connect with others in order to be a leader. He then provides 5 steps to follow:

Step One: Set aside your agenda-if you want to connect with other people, you must make their agenda your priority in that moment.

Step Two: Ask curious questions-this gets you out of your own head and into the head of someone else.

Step Three: Lean into the conversation-increase your curiosity and add thoughts that spur the connection deeper.

Step Four: Make a memorable moment-both parties walk away with something positive to hold onto.

Step Five: Keep the connection alive-

*The blog is provided as a resource but is not necessary to complete the activities.

Discussion Prompts:



Emerging Leaders (101): Look carefully at the five steps. Thinking about your school and/or department, which step is most difficult for you to follow? Explain why. Which is the easiest? Why?

Established Leaders (201): Clovis Unified believes that education is a partnership between the school and the community. We also believe that to have a partnership you must make decisions that include perspectives from parents, staff, students, and community. As a leader, think about this your responsibilities in listening to the perspectives of others. Describe your responsibilities and the systems you have in place to listen to the perspectives of others.

Tenured Leaders (301): Dr. Janet Young used to say Clovis Unified isn't perfect but that we were working hard to be, just that, perfect. Over the years we have had several challenges. Think about a challenge your school and/or department has encountered recently. Identify the challenge and the process you went through to ensure you and your team were listening to perspectives from all stakeholders in ways to overcome the challenge. If the challenge remains what will you do in the future>