

From Culture of Learning to Culture of Inquiry – Facilitator’s Guide

Facilitator directions: Explain the transition from culture of learning to culture of inquiry. Review the first example with the participants. Ask each participant to take one of the other five examples and ask questions that a principal would ask to change a culture of learning to a culture of inquiry. Have each person share her/his reply and discuss as a group.

CULTURE OF LEARNING	CULTURE OF INSTRUCTIONAL INQUIRY
Ex.: Teacher: “I participated in peer observations.”	“Did you ask your observer to look for strengths as well as areas for improvement? What did you learn about your teaching practices from this experience? Did you make any helpful suggestions to teachers who you observed?”
1. Teacher: “I contribute to the review of student data in my PLC.”	“Did your PLC discuss instructional practices that might be linked to the data? Did you disaggregate data and look at subgroups? Did the discussion identify ways to adjust or change instruction rather than reteach it the same way?”
2. Teacher: “I participated in a book study on grading practices.”	“Were there substantive changes in the book related to best practices? Did you analyze how your grading practices compare with the best practices outlined in the book and subsequent group discussion? Are you considering changing your grading practices?”
3. Teacher: “I ask my students about their interests.”	“How do you ask students? Do you ask them using a variety of formats? (surveys, focus groups) How frequently? Do you use this information to make your lessons more relevant? (Give examples) Do you ever ask your students what they like most about your teaching practices and where you might improve?”
4. Teacher: “I went to a Kelly Gallagher workshop to improve my knowledge of literacy.”	“Who chose the workshop and why? Did you analyze how your instructional practices compare with the best practices demonstrated in the workshop? What strategies will you be incorporating as a result of this knowledge? Are there any literacy strategies you will be eliminating? Will you share an idea from this workshop with a colleague and peer coach each other in its implementation and effectiveness?”
5. Principal: “I changed my Instructional Leadership Team meetings to make them more focused.”	“Did you ask for feedback from your staff regarding effectiveness of your meetings or how they might be improved? What input did you seek from teachers in developing the agenda?”