



Coach's Corner

November 9, 2015
Volume 2 Issue 7

Williamsburg Charter High School - 198 Varet St., Brooklyn NY 11206 - 718-782-9830 x2014

*"A good teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary."
-Thomas Carruthers*

Mini Series!

The Teacher Center will be offering a mini-series every other Tuesday

November 10th

All Teachers

The Power of an Effective Do Now

Mini Series sessions are offered during periods 4-7.

Each session starts 10 minutes after the bell and lasts 30 minutes.

Grab a snack and stop by for:

Strategies on the go!

The Teacher Center!!

Not only can you get coffee and chocolate in the Teacher Center, we are now equipped with a computer, printer, and phone!!! Stop by if you need to make calls home, or print out your lesson!

Work Smarter Not Harder!!

I am sure you have already made lists upon lists of changes you wish to employ as you enter second quarter. That is the beauty of education, we are constantly learning, growing, and reflecting. However, all that growing can leave us feeling completely overwhelmed. With professional development, staff meetings, common planning, lesson planning, collaboration, grading, and some even working on advanced degrees, we begin to experiment with sleep deprivation. One secret, which takes much trial and error, is cutting down that grading time! The longer you teach the more tricks you find to grade quickly and effectively... but to get you started, here are a couple of those tips you can use today!

Grade On-The-Spot

We all know the magic of **just** holding a clipboard, but actually putting grades on it saves time.

- Grade the *Do Now* on-the-spot. You can circulate, discuss various answers, and grade it all at one time.
- *Focused Notes The Cornell Way* can also be graded on-the-spot. Require students to bring highlighters and colored pens to class, and you can grade their notes just by looking at a highlighted section.
- Giving a quiz? Grade it with the class and input the grade on-the-spot.
- Giving presentations? Grade it using a rubric on-the-spot. Don't forget to grade the audience as well!

Chunking Grades

Who said every word has to be graded every time? Choose different sections to grade, don't tell the students until the grading is done and you are discussing the results.

Writing Assignments

- Grade only the thesis, intro paragraph, evidence, signal phrases, body, or conclusion. Give them ample feedback on that section and have them review that feedback and take your previous suggestions into account before they turn in the next assignment. Then choose a new section to focus on.
- Have students highlight the one sentence or one paragraph they are most proud of and only grade that section.

Trade & Grade

Peer grading can be a little scary, but if you set distinct parameters it can be beneficial to both teacher and student. You can also grade the grader!

- Have students modify each other's work. Exchange papers and choose one sentence/paragraph to revise based on academic language or syntax...then grade the revision.
- Have student graders read the work and provide one question and one suggestion. The question and suggestion can focus on content, format, syntax, diction, or teacher's choice.
- Have students grade each other's work using rubrics, and walk around to gather their grades while they move onto the next assignment.

Students **can** and **should** be writing **everyday**, but that doesn't mean you have to grade **every** word. Don't be afraid to chunk your grading and choose one major writing assignment each month to complete a *full grade*.

The Teacher Center Website is Up and Running!! www.thewcs.org/theteachercenter