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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Welcome to Teaching!*.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Teaching! *An Illustrated Guide to the* *Best Profession in the World*

Congratulations on your choice to become an educator! It's an amazing career and one that will bring you much joy and many challenges. We have been teachers for many years, and in this book we will share with you some of the great ideas we have collected throughout our careers, all of which have been proven to increase student learning.

THE ROLE OF A TEACHER

You will have many roles, which are the big things that you will accomplish as an educator, including . . .

- Providing mentorship and support and listening to others
- Inspiring learners to achieve their aspirations and potential
- Nurturing curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking
- Creating meaningful learning experiences
- Using technology to support learning
- Selecting the right instructional strategies that deepen learning
- Continuing to learn, grow, and develop as an educator



Exciting, right?



I.1: Welcome to Teaching
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THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TEACHER

Your responsibilities are the things that you need to do each day to accomplish your role as a professional. Your five major responsibilities include



INSTRUCTION

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- Provide instruction to individual students, small groups, and the whole class.
- Design instruction to meet student needs.
- Implement accommodations, modifications, and specially designed instructional strategies.

ASSESSMENT

- Conduct assessments and use evidence formatively and summatively.
- Provide timely and useful feedback to students.
- Grade students based on expectations.
- Administer local and state standards-based measures.



ASSESSMENT



COMMUNICATION

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- Collaborate with other educators, including specialists (art, PE, music), special educators, and bilingual support personnel.
- Provide feedback to families and other team members.
- Attend planning meetings, team meetings, and individualized education program (IEP) meetings.
- Collaborate with grade-level/subject-area teams on curriculum and instruction.



LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

- Design the structure of the class (e.g., curriculum, classroom management, physical design, policies, materials).
- Supervise paraprofessionals and peer tutors.



RECORD KEEPING

- Record daily lesson and unit plans, activities, and assignments.
- Maintain student records of progress and grades on learning targets and standards.
- Maintain attendance records.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS BOOK

We have organized the information in this book into the following categories:

1. ***Creating the climate for learning***
2. ***Planning for learning***
3. ***Engagement in learning***
4. ***Assessment of learning***
5. ***Instructional moves that ensure learning***
6. ***Tools and strategies that support learning***

Notice that we're focused on learning. The other aspects of teaching you will learn from your administrators and colleagues, such as how to collaborate with other educators. In this book, we welcome you into teaching and know that you have selected this role because you want to impact the learning lives of young people.



There are myths that persist in the field of education. We identify several of these in each section in hopes that they are not perpetuated in your school.



You'll see lots of images that will guide your understanding of the content. We have created infographics for each of the major questions so that you can flip through this book and find what you're looking for.

First, you'll find questions. These questions are the ones that we are commonly asked as people become educators and are based on thousands of classroom observations and our reading of the research.

For each question, we provide information and **an opportunity to elevate your practice and take it to a higher level.**



At the end of each question, there is a checklist of items for you to consider. Addressing each of these items will ensure that **you develop as a highly effective teacher.**



We've included a lot of videos so that you can **see other teachers in action** and hear from us directly.



There are also links to additional resources that you can use if you like. You may want to return to a specific question later and **use the resources to expand your thinking.**



Again, welcome to teaching. We are lucky to have you as a colleague, and we trust that you will create incredible learning experiences for your students.

TRUST

