

For Studio Instructors: Weekly Ideas and Questions for Fall Semester
By Jill Randall

As we head into our fall semester, here are some weekly questions and themes to deepen our work. Please join me!

Week 1

Reflecting on our teaching practice: What is your personal teaching goal for this semester? For experienced teachers – how do you keep growing and learning as a teaching artist?

“Inside the lesson plan”: Repetition. How many classes or weeks will you repeat the material you are teaching at the very start of the semester? What is the value in this repetition?

Week 2

Reflecting on our teaching practice: What is something *new* you are trying out this semester (content or format)? What is tried and true that you are coming back to as well?

“Inside the lesson plan”: Modeling for students. How do you model engagement, risk taking, playfulness, and whole body commitment the material?

Week 3

Reflecting on our teaching practice: How do you create an environment for risk taking?

“Inside the lesson plan”: Learning how to learn. Do the students have strategies to see/hear instructions and how to capture the ideas? What tools and techniques have you explicitly given them?

Week 4

Reflecting on our teaching practice: Where do you see and experience joy (in students and within yourself)?

“Inside the lesson plan”: Energy level in the class. Can you graph out how you *want* the energy level to rise and fall over the course of the lesson? After the class happens, draw a second graph with the peaks and valleys of energy.

Week 5

Reflecting on our teaching practice: Five words to describe the class this semester (students, you, content).

“Inside the lesson plan”: Props or visuals. What can you add into the lesson, whether a prop for the students to use (scarf, ribbon, hoop) or a visual example to help students understand a step or an idea?

Week 6

Reflecting on our teaching practice: What is the energy of this group of students? How is this related to the time of day, or day of the week?

“Inside the lesson plan”: Transitions. Take this week to place a personal spotlight on how you handle and “choreograph” the transitions in your class from activity to activity.

Week 7

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *Who gets to witness the work?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *The hour before you teach.* Thinking about your own transitions...what is happening for you the hour before you teach, or even the 15 minutes beforehand? How can you set yourself up for success?

Week 8

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *What’s going well?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *Pace.* Place a personal spotlight on the pace of your class – whether the teaching material or the amount of time for each part of class.

Week 9

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *What does rigor look like and feel like – for both students and teachers?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *New material vs. prior material.* How do you balance pulling material forward from week to week, and also providing variety, challenge, and fresh ideas for the students?

Week 10

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *What in the class – format, pace, content, music playlist – needs work?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *Playlists.* What is on your playlist? Do students get to offer suggestions? How often do you switch up your playlist?

Week 11

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *Who at the studio can offer you support, guidance, resources, or mentoring?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *New vocabulary or new concept.* What are you introducing this week?

Week 12

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *What do you love about teaching?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *Beginnings.* Shine a spotlight on how you are beginning your classes (how, what, and why).

Week 13

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *Five words to describe the class this semester (students, you, content).*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *Endings.* Shine a spotlight on how you are concluding your classes these days.

Week 14

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *How is your artistic practice inspiring and informing your teaching practice this semester?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *Revisiting*. Are there any exercises or combinations you want to bring back from the first few weeks of classes this semester?

Week 15

Reflecting on our teaching practice: *How did you accomplish or explore your teaching goal(s) for the semester?*

“Inside the lesson plan”: *Ideas for next semester*. Before heading off on Winter Break, look at the lesson plans from the fall semester. You might repeat some of the material in the Winter...highlight or mark with Post-It Notes. What ideas or concepts do you want to try out next round? Capture them now!