

An Exercise to Help You Reach the Heart of Your Students



A Morrissey Model Resource

Have your students write a list A through Z on a blank sheet of paper. Write the first word that comes to mind for each letter (can leave off X, Y, and Z). Separate verbs, nouns, and adjectives. See which themes emerge. **Hint:** Works best when handwritten.

Example:

Adore
Beauty
Create
Design
Enjoy
Faith
God
Help
Inspire
Joy
Kids
Love
Music
Nature
Open-minded
Prepare
Quality
Roses
Sunshine
Talk
Understand
Vivacious

Verbs: Adore, Create, Design, Enjoy, Help, Inspire, Prepare, Talk, Understand, Write

Nouns: Beauty, Faith, God, Joy, Kids, Love, Music, Nature, Quality, Roses, Sunshine

Adjectives: Open-minded, Vivacious

THEMES:

What are the actions this person is most likely to take?

Adore, Create, Design and Enjoy all speak to an artistic appreciation and creation.

Help, Inspire, Prepare, Talk, Understand, and Write all indicate someone who might like teaching in one form or another.

What does this person value?

Beauty, Music, Nature, Roses, and Sunshine all indicate an aesthetic appreciation.

Faith, God, and Love indicate a spiritual value.

How might this person combine their actions with their values?

Creating art? Writing about spirituality? Teaching? Inspiring?

In one of Sir Ken Robinson’s most memorable TED Talks, “Do Schools Kill Creativity,” he points out a notable fact. Worldwide, the countries with the highest performing educational systems **individualize teaching and learning**. “They recognize that it is students who are learning, and the system has to engage them, their curiosity, their individuality, and their creativity.”

How might you best engage your students’ curiosity this week? After having completed the activity above, what have you learned about your students that you didn’t know before? How will you allow this knowledge to shape your relationships with them moving forward?

