Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Unlocking the Power of SEL in the Classroom

Renowned educator and author Jon Saphier brings SEL strategies to classroom teachers in a new online course.

With Making Student Thinking Visible, every teacher can learn to build capacity around SEL strategies in their classrooms directly from the author of The Skillful Teacher.

Help Teachers Unlock the Power of SEL

Research conducted by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) shows that student success isn’t solely determined by academic skills. SEL skills such as grit, optimism and self-awareness, are also fundamental contributors to student success.

Making Student Thinking Visible equips teachers with practical strategies for supporting students’ academic and SEL development with high-expertise teaching methods that will engage all students in rigorous, higher level thinking while also acquiring 21st century skills to succeed in college and the workplace. The course builds educators’ capacity to use strategies for making student thinking visible and enables educators to engage students in meaningful ways across grade levels and content areas. In this course, teachers will learn to use SEL skills to:

- Cultivate a robust talk environment
- Ignite student discourse and extend student capacity to manage discussions, all in support of helping students make their thinking visible
- Promote student-led learning
- Develop student confidence and capacity to speak
- Establish a safe environment in the classroom
- Give up old teaching habits that interfere with making student thinking visible
- Plan and prepare instruction that fully integrates making student thinking visible principles into the classroom

Transform Instruction to Increase Students’ SEL Skills

The instructional techniques presented throughout this course support students’ ability to maintain positive relationships, set goals, and make responsible decisions collaboratively, by:

- Developing students’ communication and collaboration skills
- Introducing and modeling strategies that lead to friendly and supportive interaction among students
- Challenging students’ thinking in a non-judgmental manner
- Encouraging student responsibility for learning and teaching each other in a climate of mutual support and non-defensiveness
- Building student confidence and extending their capacity to manage discussions (life-long skills)

“Making Student Thinking Visible (MSTV) is transformative in the classroom. It’s a simple, easy way to ensure that your classroom is truly student-centered. Once I created MSTV lessons for the books we read, my students were challenged to think about literature in exciting and personal ways, and I saw the impact in increased student understanding and higher test scores.”

— Nancy G. Barile, NBCT, Revere High School, A.P. English Teacher
HOW DO YOUR STUDENTS SHOW WHAT THEY KNOW? TEACH YOUR STUDENTS TO THINK OUT LOUD!
Create a school community that fosters SEL, robust student dialog, and collaborative learning. Making Student Thinking Visible enables districts to scale rigorous PD to cultivate an environment where students can show what they know.

Making Student Thinking Visible: An online course by Jon Saphier, with commentary by Lucy West

“The purpose of this course is to help teachers acquire the skills to create a robust talk environment for all students... where they are all challenged and enabled to think deeply, critically, and frequently and interact out loud with one another. If educators want high-expertise teaching to be a part of their practice and get low-performing, low-confidence kids to believe in themselves, this is one of the most important skills to have in their repertoire.”
—Jon Saphier, Ed.D.

Lucy West is the founder of Metamorphosis: Teaching Learning Communities and a renowned education consultant following her work with New York City Public Schools. She is the co-author of Content-Focused Coaching: Transforming Mathematics Lessons with European Researcher Fritz C. Staub, currently in its 2nd edition, and co-author of Agents of Change (2013).

Jon Saphier, Ed.D., is the co-author of The Skillful Teacher, currently in its 6th edition, and seven other books. He is the founder of Research for Better Teaching, an educational professional development and consulting organization dedicated to improving classroom teaching and school leadership throughout the U.S. and internationally.