

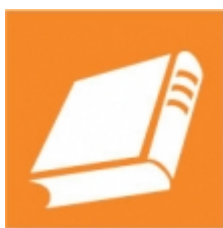
YEAR TWO of the newsletter for great resources from your
Texas Panhandle P16 Council!

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MARCH `14 NEWSLETTER

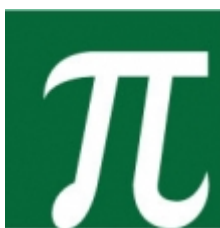
CHECK OUT SUBJECT-SPECIFIC INFORMATION BELOW FOR RESOURCES
AND IDEAS TO
SUPPORT WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN THE CLASSROOM!



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Dr. Tony Wagner named Critical Thinking and Problem Solving as the number one, top requested skill that employers want their workers to have, and as cultivators of the future workforce, we are obligated to prepare our students for the real world. Applying Critical Thinking in the classroom is risky and scary because the teacher has to relinquish some of the control, maybe even venture into unknown territory; however through careful planning and equipping ourselves with an understanding of this process, we will be able to satisfy our need for containing the chaos yet still develop the thinkers our society needs. In my research and classroom experience, I have found that presenting my students with a multiple-solution problem or task that requires them to question, research and prove their conclusions stimulates their critical thinking skills. Often my students will be

There is daily collaboration about the new high school endorsements and our master schedule for next year on my campus. We think we are looking for answers to a countless number of questions, but we are really looking for 4 answers and how these answers will work together. When I step outside of the conversations and reflect, I notice a central theme. At the basis of our conversations are Dufour's essential PLC questions: 1. What do we expect our students to learn (know and be able to do)? 2. How will we know they are learning? 3. How will we respond when they don't learn? 4. How will we respond if they already know it?

The Texas Faculty Collaboratives project includes a Science Collaborative located at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. They have a nice Science Resource page with videos and lesson plans. Notably, there are quite a few downloadable high school Biology lesson plans designed to promote college and career readiness. Check them out [HERE](#). You might find something useful!

CLICK [HERE](#) for the latest information and resources for your social studies classroom!

frustrated that there is no definitive right answer-- like in multiple choice or basic text questions-- because thinking makes their brains hurt. But, when they finally arrive at their own personal solution and justification, their understanding of the text and problem are more comprehensive than before their exploration. Please take some time to explore the wealth of information and ideas to develop critical thinkers in your classroom in following links:

<http://www.criticalthinking.org//>

[GRADES 10-12](#)

[GRADES 6-9](#)

[GRADES 4-6](#)

[GRADES K-3](#)

The detailed decisions that have to be made should be driven by the answers to these questions. These questions are what connect teachers, principals, curriculum specialists, counselors, and other key decision makers. They give us perspective when we feel overwhelmed by all of the details. These questions help us remember that our decisions are about student learning first and foremost.

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