

Student End-of-Year Reflection

As this school year draws to a close it presents the opportunity to reflect and plan for the end of this year, leading into the next. Several authorities have commented on the role self-evaluation and reflection play in both leader and student success.

Daniel Goleman, Author of *FOCUS: The Hidden Driver of Excellence* (2013), maintains that self-awareness is a key ingredient for effective leaders. He states, “For instance, confidence in one form or another often shows up in these models. And a sense of certainty in one’s own abilities, based on a realistic understanding of your own strengths and limitations, requires **self-awareness** – the first tenet of emotional intelligence.”

John Hattie, Professor of Education at Auckland University, New Zealand, has spent years investigating factors that influence student achievement. His book, *Visible Learning* (2009), presents a synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses, including over 50,000 separate studies, related to student achievement. **Self-reported grades/expectations** is the top-ranked (effect size of 1.44) of the 138 effects on student learning.

Dr. Glasser’s main point in his book, *The Quality School: Managing Students Without Coercion*, was the importance of teaching students the process of **evaluating their own work**. Depending on the assignment, it could be a simple rating of quality, effort, or both (1 to 5, or traditional grades of A – F).

Remember: Effective self-evaluation is about honest reflection. It is not a time to be critical or to “beat yourself up”.

The following questions may be posed to a class, small group, or individual student to facilitate the self-evaluation process.

- What goals, if any, did you set for yourself this year?
- Did you reach your goals? Explain.
- In what classes or subjects did you do your best?
 - o What did you do that helped you succeed in these areas?
 - o How could these strategies help you in other classes?
- In what classes or subjects did you not do your best this year?
 - o What prevented you from being successful?
 - o What could help you be more successful in the future?

If desired, extend the self-evaluation process by using the following questions to help students formulate a plan for improvement.

After answering the first few questions, what was your key insight?

- If you do the same thing next year, what results will you get?
- Are those the results that you REALLY want?
- What can you do the last few weeks of school that will help you succeed next year?

My goal for the remainder of the school year is...

Some Action Steps that will help me reach my goal are...

How will I know if I reach my goal?
