



# FUELING PURPOSE: TEACHER STRATEGIES

As an educator, maintaining a sense of purpose is essential for both personal fulfillment and professional effectiveness. Engaging strategies that align with your professional Values, Passions, Aspirations, and Talents helps cultivate a sense of purpose. This process not only enhances personal and professional growth but also directly impacts students' learning experiences, making teaching more purposeful and rewarding for everyone.

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## VALUES

- Work with peers who share similar professional values and passions to inspire you. This could involve collaborative planning, peer observations, or forming interest groups to discuss educational practices that foster your professional values.
  - Incorporate mindfulness and well-being practices into the classroom to support both personal and student well-being. When you pay attention to your own well-being and that of your students, everyone is better equipped to focus on the purpose at hand!
  - Engage with the community to extend your impact beyond the classroom. This may include organizing community-based learning projects, participating in education fairs, or starting partnerships with local businesses or organizations.
  - Read articles, listen to podcasts, and consume professional knowledge that aligns with your educational values.
  - Reflect regularly on how your professional values align with your daily teaching practices. Keep a journal to document reflections on what values are most important in your teaching and how they are regularly upheld in the classroom.
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## PASSIONS

- Revisit your “Why?” What initially inspired you to become a teacher? When school is challenging or frustrating, how do you reconnect with your “Why?”
- Pursue professional development opportunities that are aligned with your passions within education, such as innovative teaching methods, special education, or subject-specific seminars.
- Share success stories with colleagues. Discuss successful lesson plans and break-through moments with students. Ask colleagues about their own shining moments. Sharing these stories can boost morale and reinforce the purpose and joy of teaching.
- Determine where your passions align with your students' passions and incorporate that into your classroom. Invite students to co-create lessons that reflect shared passions.
- Develop a gratitude practice related to your teaching experiences. Regularly reflecting on positive moments and successes helps to maintain a positive perspective and serves as a reminder of the impact you have on your students' lives.



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## ASPIRATIONS

- Discuss professional aspirations with colleagues and leaders. Discover how you can support each other in your various pursuits.
- Celebrate both large and small accomplishments. Consider not only long-term goals, but also the goals you achieve on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.
- Think about how your professional aspirations benefit your students.
- Spend a few minutes each day reflecting on meaningful moments. What was impactful about the day's lessons and your interactions with students and colleagues?
- Attend workshops, courses, and conferences that help you achieve your long-term career aspirations, such as becoming a department head, a principal, or an educational consultant.

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## TALENTS

- Reflect on which talents you believe are most effective and impactful as a teacher. Commit to enhancing these talents and sharing your knowledge with colleagues through writing, presenting, collaborating, mentoring, or coaching.
- Observe colleagues who are experts in areas where you would like to strengthen your talents. Participate in professional learning networks, either online or in person. Connecting with other educators can be a source of support and inspiration.
- Learn from your community. Invite experts into your classroom to co-teach and share their expertise.
- Advocate for and implement student-centered learning practices that cater to diverse learning needs and uphold educational values, such as equity and student empowerment.
- Challenge yourself to learn from a younger colleague. Consider trying a new or unique pedagogical approach. Commit to using your experiences to ensure that the new curriculum reflects current educational research and knowledge.

