

2x10 Relationship Building



SEL Alignment: Social Awareness | Self-Awareness | Relationship Skills



EL EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

[Home](#) | [Current Issue](#) | [Archives](#) | [Buy](#) | [Contact](#)

September 2016 | Volume 74 | Number 1
Relationships First Pages 84-85

[Issue Table of Contents](#) | [Read Article Abstract](#)

Show & Tell: A Video Column / Two Times Ten Conversations

Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey

How can we win the trust of a challenging student?

Mahad was a newly enrolled 11th grade student at our school. He left class whenever he wanted to. He was on his phone a lot. He yelled out to other students in the middle of class. And he was failing all of his classes, having done none of the work during his first few weeks of attendance. A quick review of his cumulative files from his previous schools showed multiple suspensions, disciplinary actions, and failing grades. He was at risk for becoming a statistic, and not a good one.

Instead of taking drastic measures, Mahad's teaching team decided to give him three weeks of leeway, hoping that each day would get better. Marisol Thyre, Mahad's English teacher, began to build a relationship with him through a systematic process called 2 x 10—an adult interacts with the student in relationship-building conversations for 2 minutes a day for 10 consecutive days. (In the case of Mahad, Ms. Thyre shortened the 2 x 10 strategy to five days but met with Mahad twice on each of those days.)

Share | Like | Comment

Source: Wlodkowski, R. J. (1983). *Motivational opportunities for successful teaching [Leader's Guide]*. Phoenix, AZ: Universal Dimensions.

Context:

Educators (or school leaders) select a student and for **2 minutes a day, 10 days in a row**, they engage in a brief conversation with that same student. The focus is:

- **Brevity.** These conversations typically last under two minutes.
- **Student Voice.** Students are invited to share something non-academic with a caring adult.
- **Honesty.** Teachers also have the opportunity to share something non-academic with students.

Instructions:

1. Choose one student who you would like to strengthen your relationship with.
2. Find this student and open a conversation with them for 2 minutes for 10 consecutive days.
3. The content of your conversation **should not relate to the student's schoolwork or behavior.**