

**FIVE DAY LEARNER-
CENTERED LEADERSHIP
KICKSTART START
WORKBOOK**

**Stay True to Your
Learners**

Stay True To Your Staff

Stay True To Yourself

Stay True To Your Learners

Day #1

Go visit three classrooms today!

Visit an elementary, middle school and high school classroom. The simple act of soaking in the classroom with the learners is soul-enriching. Observing a teacher who is a master at their craft will humble you and motivate you at the same time.

Suggested questions to ask learners

1. What are you learning today?
2. How is your day?
3. What do you like the best about school?
4. What do you love to learn about?

What did you learn from talking to learners today?



Stay True To Yourself

Day #3

Start Dreaming of Your Ideal School!

One of the most powerful tools a learner-centered leader has is the power of writing. You owe it to yourself, and your school, to take time out of your regular day and dream about the ideal school. In five years what does your school look like when it is operating at its ideal best? What systems are in place to ensure the learners are at the center of everything that you do? The act of writing down your thoughts serves two purposes. First, it clarifies your thinking. Second, once you have written down your dreams, you can share it on a blog, social media post, or in a report to the school board.

Suggested questions to help you dream of your ideal school

1. What future do you want to create for your school or school district?
2. What is the perspective of important stakeholders of the future you want to create?
3. What do you need to learn to assure success for the implementation of your future vision?
4. Who needs to have input to help co-create your future vision?
5. How will you know you have reached your future vision?
6. What are the assumptions from your past experiences that are limiting your future possibilities?



Stay True To Your Staff

Day #4

Lead a Book Study!

Go ahead, find a book that moves YOU and share it with someone. The book study can be with a single person, a small group, or your entire staff. Whatever you chose is fine...just do it! Here's the great thing about a book study. It allows you to get your "teacher hat" on and plan a unit of instruction that is meaningful and FUN.

I wrote a [blog post on how to lead a book study](#). It is worth the few minutes it will take to read. Here are some quick tips.

Quick Tips on Running a Book Study

1. Choose a book that means something to you AND will help you lead the district to its ideal future
2. Plan the book study as if it is your classroom. Have different activities, objectives, etc.
3. Feed the book study participants. I mean this literally. Spend the time and money to have good refreshments at every meeting. People are more relaxed when they have food in their stomachs. It also sends a message that you care about them.
4. Follow up after the book study. A book study is not an end in and of itself. It is a way to start a conversation that will evolve in your district overtime.
5. At the end of the book study, ask the participants to suggest colleagues who will benefit from going through the book study with you.



Stay True To Your Staff

Day #5

Conduct a Learner-Centered Faculty Meeting

Congratulations! You are on the last day of your 5-day learner-centered leadership kick start journey. Getting the pulse of your staff is important. What do they think about being uncompromisingly learner-centered? Better yet, what are the skills they think they need to become learner-centered? Starting the conversation about becoming learner-centered with the people that interact with learners every day is crucial. Approach this faculty meeting as the start of a great journey to help learners. here are some questions and ideas to help you facilitate the conversation.

Start the faculty meeting by showing Sir Ken Robinson's TED talk "Changing the Education Paradigm" by RSA Animate. Questions to ask based on the video:

1. What are three things that Sir Ken Robinson said in the video that resonates with you?
2. When thinking about our school, what are things that we can do better to "change the education paradigm"?

Follow up by getting the staff into groups of four or five. Ask them to answer these two questions:

1. What do you believe about learning?
2. What do you believe about teaching?

Finally, (with you taking notes on a large Post-it note or whiteboard, ask the group this final question:

1. What would our school look like if we were uncompromisingly learner-centered?

