

Learning and Understanding Students' Histories, Identities, and Literacies: A List of Questions

Questions for Learning Students' Histories

- What are the histories of my students' schooling/school experiences?
- What are the histories of my students' families/cultures?
- What are the histories of our students' wider histories in their communities, in society, and in the world? Who are their people? How did they practice literacy and language historically?

Questions for Learning Students' Identities

- What are ways in which my students see and define their own lives?
- How are my students defined by others (both positive and negative representations)? If negative, how can we provide learning spaces to name, critique, and push back against such views? If positive, how can we provide learning spaces to help them trust and believe in the ways others see them?
- Whom do my students desire to be in their future? How do my students see their most desired future versions of themselves? How can my classroom instruction enable and cultivate these identities?

Questions for Learning Students' Literacy and Language Practices

- How do my students practice literacies at home and in their communities? What language(s) do they speak?
- What is the purpose of literacy and language in their lives?
- How were literacy and language cultivated historically with their families and ancestors?