

W-3: Sustain energy to reach ambitious goals

Map out your future improvement

A powerful way to reenergize as a teacher is to begin planning your own improvement. Think about how much better you are going to be next month. Or next year. You *are* getting there – you are going to become an excellent teacher, and your students are going to achieve at levels you couldn't have imagined. However, it's not enough to just think about the ways in which you could improve – you have to actually *believe* that you can improve. To help you see that improvement is possible, reach out to your fellow colleagues who have also experienced significant struggles in the classroom, but who have overcome their challenges and become excellent educators. If these folks can make it, so can you. Finally – to fully realize your capacity for improvement, reflect back on the progress you have already made in your classroom. Recognizing mini-victories you have already enjoyed can both get you excited about planning your future improvement, as well as substantiate the fact that you *can* improve.

Reflect on the mistakes you have made in your classroom, the things that didn't go well, and the ways in which you haven't lived up to your own expectations. Instead of getting down on yourself about these ways in which you've come up short, use your mistakes as the foundation for your improvement. If classroom management has been a challenge, use what you have learned from your struggles to map out your new approach for next week, next month, or next year. If your diagnostic and summative assessments didn't give you the data about your students' learning that you needed, identify the specific ways in which they fell short– and then you'll have the blueprint for your next iteration.