eJournal #1: Relevant Questions

In a recent Newsweek article about Facebook, the widget called “My Questions” automatically (i.e., without knowledge of the user) sent out the following question to the friend list of an unsuspecting member: “Do you kiss on the first date?” The unsuspecting member was upset not only because the widget automatically sent the question out, but also because the member felt that his friends would find the question both awkward and inane.

Facebook appears to be about connections (perhaps even relationships) and asking questions and receiving answers that, presumably, matter relative to those connections and relationships. At the same time, some questions are more important – and relevant – to meaningful relationships than others, especially when it comes down to why they are asked.

In your quest toward becoming a student of teaching, relationships and questions that pertain to them will, we believe, play a major role in your journey. For this reason we begin our CI 412W course with several activities that require you to ask important questions to the people with whom you have significant relationships within the SECED Block.

Assignment
For your first eJournal entry we want you to think carefully about the sorts of knowledge or information, skills or abilities and dispositions or attitudes that you want or need to have addressed during this pre-student teaching semester. With those ideas in mind, think next about the instructional relationships that exist within the SECED Block – including those with the following people: (1) your CI 412W instructor; (2) your Xed instructor; (3) your PSU supervisor; and (4) your 495 classroom mentor teacher. [Note: These are relationships that you have inherited, not ones that you can choose.] Consider how your various needs (identified above) may coincide or intersect with respect to these multiple relationships. What might you want to know about and from these educators in order to feel that your relationships with them can move you forward toward a successful semester?

Having given all of this some serious thought, formulate two or three questions to ask of your CI 412W instructor. With each question, provide a brief explanation of how the answer will connect to one of your professional needs toward becoming a student of teaching.

NOTES:
• Place your response in this eJournal dropbox AND bring a hard copy to class with you next week.
• Assume that your questions/explanations may be shared in public, and that you may be asked to elaborate on your description of their relevance.