

# Becoming a Positive Deviant for Educators: The Challenge



1. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/pos-dev>.
2. Select a challenge for each of the five areas (see more below).
3. Select a place to share those challenges. Suggestions include Twitter, Facebook, your blog or website, a classroom display, or even Slideshare or another presentation venue. See Area 4 below for more information.
4. In 30 days, share a follow-up that includes a self-reflection.

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## AREA 1: The Unscripted Question

Task 1: Select the audience for your unscripted question.

Your audience may be parents, students, administrators, other educators. You may have more than one audience, and each audience will need its own set of questions.

My audience: \_\_\_\_\_

Task 2: Create your questions.

List at least five questions (any fewer and you grow weary of them). You may use some of the suggestions in the article, but choose at least two that you create yourself that align well with your unique teaching environment. Make it personal for you.

My questions are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

Task 3: Decide where you will keep your questions, and prepare them.

You will need a place to keep the questions readily available. Possibilities include the back of your ID, an index card (laminated for durability), a small paper affixed to your desk or computer, or your computer background.

I will keep my questions \_\_\_\_\_

Remember the goal: Let each exchange lead to bridge building.

**Area 2: Don't Complain.**

Task #1: Identify the anchor areas for your environment.

What are the common topics of complaint in your work environment? Come up with the top five. Think about what you hear people (perhaps even yourself - oops) complain about the most. Don't just think about frequency - think about intensity.

Our anchor topics are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Task 2: Create your diversion tactic.

For each of those anchor topics, create a diversion tactic or topic. It works best if it's at least tangentially related. For example, if testing is an anchor topic on your campus, throwing out some random comment about your favorite frozen yogurt place will not be effective.

An example diversion topic for the anchor of testing would be to mention a test you took recently (or even not that recently) or that your child or spouse took.

My diversion topics or tactics:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Task 3: Share your positive mojo ideas.

Visit <http://bit.ly/pos-mojo> and post your ideas for how you can or do contribute to the positivity in your environment.

I posted my idea!

### **Area 3: Count Something**

Task 1: Decide what you want to track.

It should be something you are interested in, and it should not be something you are already required to track. It may be a subset of a required item, however. For example, you are required to take attendance, but you may track attendance rates on Mondays and Fridays as compared to other days.

I am going to track: \_\_\_\_\_

Task 2: Logistics of the tracking.

How are you going to record the data (spreadsheet, phone, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

How are you going to generate a report of the data (infographic, graph, narrative)

\_\_\_\_\_

Task 3: Set your expectation.

I expect the data to show that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Area 4: Write Something**

Task #1: Decide on your medium.

If you choose blog and don't already have one, Weebly is a great place to create an easy website for free. Visit the site for tutorials and information <http://www.weebly.com>. In addition to a blog, you may feel more comfortable with Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or some other social media sharing site. Just make sure it supports actual text, not just images.

Also make sure it's sharing. Journals are fantastic, but this assignment involves sharing what you've written.

If you decide after a while that the medium isn't working for you, change it.

My medium of choice is: \_\_\_\_\_

Task #2: Find an educator blog, Twitter hashtag, or Facebook group to follow.

I am following \_\_\_\_\_

### **Area 5: Change**

Task #1: Identify something you want to change this year.

It can be small (i.e., I'm going to grade in green pen, not red). Just pick something you are going to use to invite change into your routine, rather than have it imposed on you.

I'm going to change \_\_\_\_\_

Task #2: Logistics of change.

What supplies will you need for the change? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If the change is multi-step, list the steps:

