



## An online training created by Angela Watson for the 2017 BUILDING MATH MINDS SUMMIT

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Angela Watson is a National Board Certified Teacher currently working as an instructional coach and educational consultant based in Brooklyn, New York. She has published four books for teachers (the most recent being *Unshakeable: 20 Ways to Enjoy Teaching Every Day...No Matter What*) and has maintained The Cornerstone For Teachers site since 2003. Angela is also the creator of the 40 Hour Teacher Workweek Club, an online professional development program that has supported teachers with productivity in over 10,000 schools. Her top-rated podcast called Angela Watson's Truth for Teachers is entering its 5th season, providing motivation and encouragement to teachers on a weekly basis.

# 5 GUIDING QUESTIONS

*to help you do fewer things, better*

Shift your focus from determining activities **FOR** kids to planning activities **WITH** kids:

- ✓ Create the MVP and iterate over time with student input
- ✓ Set a limit for how much time you spend researching (and re-working) ideas

1

Is the experience designed **WITH** kids so I know it's meaningful and authentic for them?

2

Is the investment of time/energy worthwhile for me **AND** my students?

Rethink and restructure expectations that drain time and energy:

- ✓ Respect what your students think is a solid return on investment
- ✓ Eliminate what isn't the best and highest use of time to clear space for innovation

# 5 GUIDING QUESTIONS

## *to help you do fewer things, better*

Eliminate tasks that consume excessive instructional time yet deliver minimal educational value:

- ✓ Streamline daily classroom procedures so they run more efficiently
- ✓ Replace time wasters with instructional routines that deliver high value to kids

3

Is the impact on student learning proportionate to the class time expenditure?

4

Is there a sustainable approach to creating time in our schedule for this?

Avoid planning activities you won't have time to implement:

- ✓ Stop over-planning by designing your lessons for a realistic day rather than an ideal day
- ✓ Create margin by building in buffer time so interruptions don't throw you off

# 5 GUIDING QUESTIONS

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Don't allow the good things to leave you without time for the best things:

- ✓ You don't have to use every idea, every year: just pick what this group of kids really need
- ✓ Innovate like a turtle (Vicki Davis), and build your teaching repertoire over time

5

Is this the right priority for me and this group of kids right now?

Follow Up:

What would I like to streamline or eliminate in order to create more time for innovation?