

Task Two: Becoming a Tempered Radical.
By: Adrienne Keiner
2015

Where do you see yourself lying on the continuum?

I believe I fall in the four first sections of 'making a difference'. Resisting quietly but staying true to oneself has been my motto my entire life. I have absolutely conformed, or at least pretended to conform, to the masses just to make my life run smoother. I still find myself nodding when people are speaking whether I agree with them or not because I can still see their side of the story or their opinion. Many colleagues have noticed that people come to me to talk or vent, I have always assumed it is because I allow them to talk and make them feel comfortable with expressing their opinion. I try not to judge others, well at least not to their face (Ha!). But I have seen how this aspect of the continuum can be seen as negative or defiant. Principals have said, "she says yes now but once she's in her classroom she'll do whatever she wants," referring to a colleague and I have always said nothing out loud but I am always thinking, "of course, because she's doing what she thinks is right!"

I also fall into 'turning personal threats into opportunities' because I have several 'difficult' people that I feel threatened by. It has taken me several years to learn them better and to use those 'threats' to motivate me to do great things, mostly to throw it in their face that I am a good at what I do. I am trying not to see others as threatening any more because I think that reflects more on me than them.

'Broadening the impact through negotiation' has come up a bit when creating unit plans or sharing grade level responsibilities but I think I just visit this part of the continuum. The 'leveraging small wins' I have found myself lounging in this year because I have gained a confidence that I did not have before taking these courses. I find myself seeing the fantastic opportunities I have giving students this year and I want others to feel the excitement that I've had in these past ten months. However, I have also felt the 'judgemental' eyes on me when I share what my classes have experienced. Such feelings may just be my own faltering self confidence showing but I have been told to stop showing off. But I see such comments as small wins because that means my technology message is sinking into some of their brains. My 'evil' plan is working!

Where do you aim to be on this same continuum?

I would like to move into 'organizing collective action'. But, like I've said before, I am too worried about what others think of me and I don't want a hostile work environment. Maybe it's selfish but I'm not ready to take on the masses or majority. I'm sure others think the same way I do and I don't think anyone I work with is that hostile or confrontational but I've be proved wrong in the past and am not ready to jump off that bridge just yet.

What goals do you see yourself setting to move forward?

1. Become more confident and believe in others.
2. Share ideas and suggestions with a plan of action included so others don't think I'm just thrusting things upon them.
3. Learn how to communicate without emotion. (insulting, attacking, or any other negative action that others may feel I bring).
4. Be positive, so much so that I change others that feel negative to positive.