

Figure 2.3 Learning-Focused Conversations: A Template for Planning

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ACTIVATING AND ENGAGING

Establishing Context

- What are some things about your students' readiness (social skills, routines, self-management) that are influencing your lesson/unit design?
- What are some of the skills/knowledge students will need to bring to this lesson/unit to be successful?

Naming Presenting Issues

- What are some special areas/student needs you will need to address?
- What are some issues you anticipate might influence student learning?

EXPLORING AND DISCOVERING

Envisioning and Clarifying Goals and Outcomes

- As you think about what you know about your students, and the content, what are some key learning goals?
- What are some ways that these goals integrate with other content learning?
- What are some thinking/social skills students will need to apply?

Specifying Indicators of Success

- Given these goals, what are some things you expect to see/hear as students are achieving them?
- What are some formative assessments you're planning for monitoring student learning?
- What are some data sources you might use to determine student success?

Choosing Approaches, Strategies, and Resources

- What are some strategies you're planning that will both challenge students and support their success?
- What are some ways you'll ensure high engagement for all students?
- What are some resources or materials you/your students will need to support and extend student learning?

Determining Potential Choice Points and Concerns

- As you anticipate teaching the lesson/unit, what are some choice points that might arise?
- What are some options for supporting struggling students and enriching those who need greater challenge?
- Should there be a glitch in Plan A, what might be some options (Plan B)?

ORGANIZING AND INTEGRATING

Naming Personal Learning Opportunities

- What are some ways that this lesson/unit provides opportunities to pursue your own professional learning goals?
- As you anticipate teaching this lesson/unit, what are some opportunities for exercising new learning/skills?

Identifying Next Steps

- As a result of this conversation, what are some next steps?