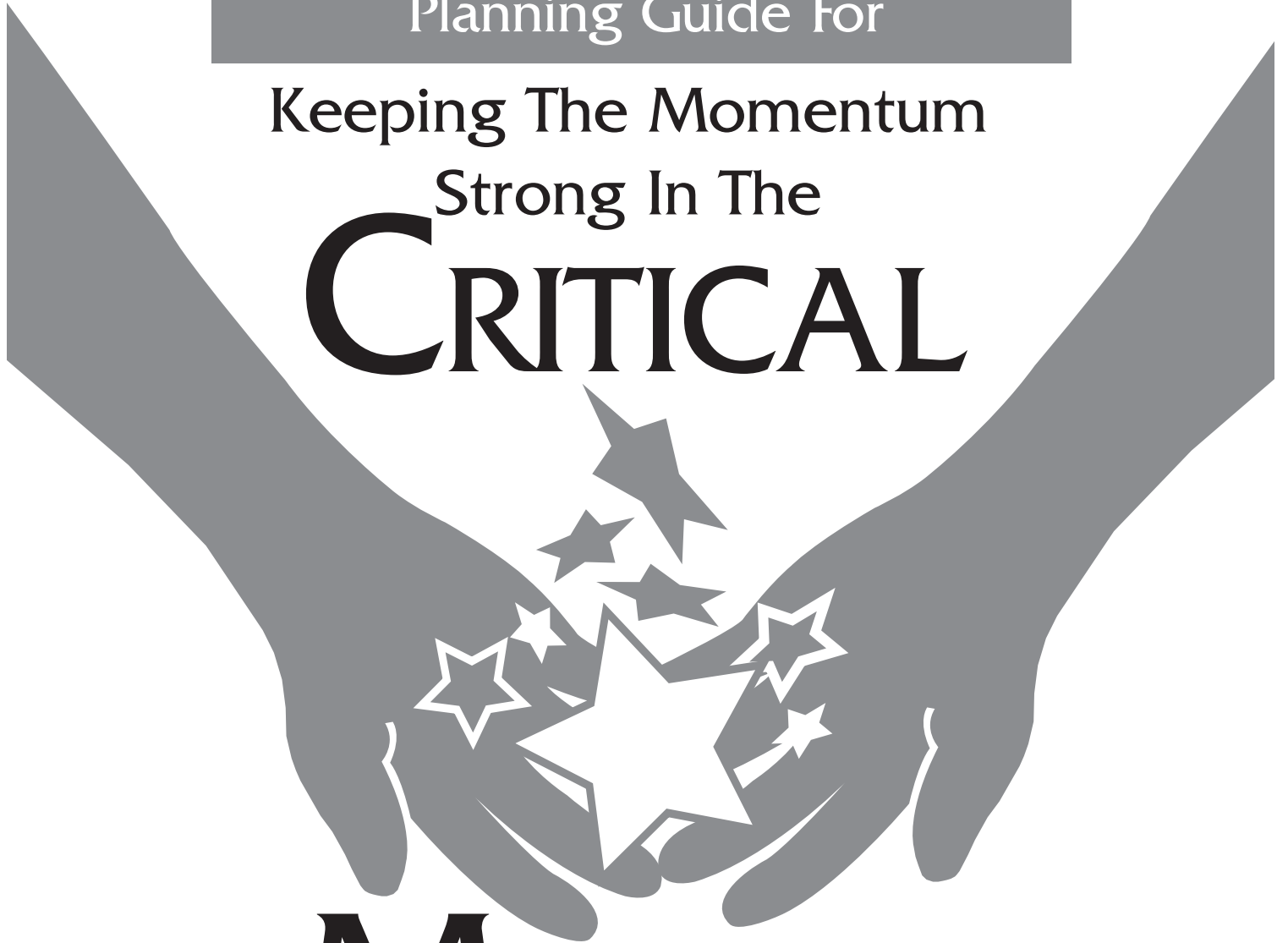


Your Personal Mentoring &  
Planning Guide For

Keeping The Momentum

Strong In The

**CRITICAL**



**MIDDLE**

Of The School Year

By Robert L. DeBruyn

THE  
MASTER TEACHER®  
*Develop · Support · Honor*



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# Introduction

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After the excitement of the beginning of the year has worn off, teachers and students may find themselves just going through the motions of teaching and learning. As everyone settles into a routine, it helps to be reminded that seeking out new teaching methods can breathe new life into the classroom and benefit students.

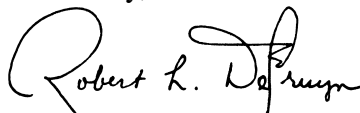
It's important for teachers to reflect periodically on practices that will keep their energy high and creativity fresh. This book will help teachers do just that. It is focused on a four-step learning process designed to enhance and further your professional growth. Reading each lesson and practicing the four-step learning process will help you grow professionally. Every step is important. To actually acquire and remember knowledge, it's important to write what you learned as well as what you already knew. Likewise, it's essential to know what worked and didn't work—and to reflect on the learning process and make adjustments. When reflection is followed by adjustments—that is, what you will do differently as well as when you will do it—you will learn and grow from your professional experiences.

The lessons in this book are aligned with the core principles of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. As you use the personal journal, you will find that it not only serves you during this year of education, but it can become your guidepost for every school year throughout your career. Simply write your journal entry after reading each message, and apply what you've learned in the classroom.

As educators, we know our careers must center on lifelong learning as well as reflect the distinguishing characteristics of lifelong learners. Lifelong learners continue to learn, take action and apply what they have learned, review and reflect on the results of that application, and make adjustments that contribute to their professional improvement and growth. This book will help you achieve these goals.

You have my best wishes for an exciting school year and a great career ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. DeBruyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Robert L. DeBruyn

Author of *The MASTER Teacher*







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# Personal Learning Journal

This is your personal learning journal for the middle of the school year. It focuses on a four-step learning process specifically designed to enhance lifelong learning. Every step is important. To actually acquire and remember knowledge, it's important to write what you learned as well as what you already knew. Likewise, it's essential to know what worked or didn't work—and to reflect. When reflection is followed by planning adjustments—that is, *what* you will do differently as well as *when* you will do it—long-term learning and improvement are enhanced.

As you use the personal journal, you will find that it not only serves you during your first year in education, but it can also become your guidepost for the middle of every school year. *Simply write your journal entry after reading each message, and apply what you've learned in the classroom.*

## I. Learning/Planning

a. What did I already know about this topic?

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b. What did I learn that was new?

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## II. Action/Application

a. What did I do that worked?

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b. What did I do that didn't work?

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c. What did I *not* do—and what happened?

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### **III. Reflection/Assessment**

a. What will I do with what I've learned from my experience?

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b. What do I still need to learn on this subject?

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c. How can I get this information?

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### **IV. Change/Adjustment**

a. What will I do differently the next time?

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b. When will I use what I've learned? (first day of school, first week of school, before grade cards go out, etc.)

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