

10. Pros, Cons and Questions

Aim: ‘Pros, Cons and Questions’ is a versatile reflective tool that can be used as a stand-alone activity or done in conjunction with other activities. They are useful for reflecting upon how we see the advantages and limitations of our engagement in a role, situation or with a subject topic and then posing questions for further reflection.

Select from the sample topics or create a topic

Consider some of the Advantages (Pros) and Limitations (Cons)

Role as a:

- Mentor to a beginning teacher for teacher accreditation requirements.
- Mentee achieving accreditation as a teacher.
- Mentor and/or mentee entering a new practice of

Situations:

- As the beginning teachers’ supervisor and mentor.
- When introducing a formalised mentor program.

Subject topic:

- When using email as a form of communication at work.
- Using a journal for reflection on your practice.
- The mentee’s time management skills.

Instructions

Group members individually complete the Pros, Cons and Questions sections of the data collection sheet. Use words or brief phrases to identify the advantages and limitations. Word the questions as challenges to oneself. For example, how can I achieve a power balance with a beginning teacher as both mentor and supervisor?

Group Reflection

- Share findings with others in the group.
How did the lists vary? How were they similar?
Explore the reasons for placing each item under the selected category?
- The group members collaboratively develop solutions to the questions posed by each member.

Alternately the sections can be co-constructed by the members of the group.

Ideas for individual reflection

‘Pros, Cons and Questions’ can be completed individually, writing responses to the group discussion questions into a reflective journal.

Further Reflection and/or discussion

A similar activity is “Positive, Minus and Interesting”. Name a fixed number of positives, negatives and then a fixed number of interesting points about a given topic.

Topic

Pros	Cons	Questions