# Responding to the readings

This proforma is one way of actively engaging with your reading. If you have other ways of getting the most from your reading let your colleagues know in the readings discussion folder where you can also attach your reading responses.

Choose *one* idea from your readings:

* 1. articulate the idea, clearly and simply;
  2. analyse its relationship to your practice as a teacher; and
  3. describe an implication for your future practice as a teacher.

It helps your learning to be creative: draw a concept map (<http://cmap.ihmc.us/> ), draw a picture, insert a video

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| Idea | Australia must include an education system that expects and achieves a high level of student achievement, mastery, enjoyment and innovation in science, technology and mathematics, year after year - through well-resourced, knowledgeable, inspiring and passionate teams of teachers (Prinseley and Johnston as cited in Hobbs and Cripps Clark 2015:2).  A crucial concept in the chapter is the growing importance of STEM education and providing high quality, engaging lessons to improve and innovate in the field of STEM. As science, technology and mathematics become much more prominent in the 21st century, STEM education needs to be evolving and inclusive of new practices that come from a technologically evolving world. |
| Relationship | I have witnessed the importance of this firsthand throughout my career prior to teaching. Coming from finance, technology had evolved throughout the COVID lockdown in Melbourne to the point where everyone who needed to be at work due to technological limitations (or lack of IT support) were forced to work remotely, and rely solely on technology.  Back to teaching, IT, engineering and mathematics roles have become some of the highest paying and most prominent roles in Australia. People who are strongly educated, qualified and skilled in these roles are the ones rewarded with promising careers. These roles are now in abundance, and businesses worldwide are recruiting for more technological advances in society. The importance of this becoming included in primary education is even more crucial now compared to before. I view STEM education as critical to incorporate into primary classrooms, as students need to be exposed to these materials early to learn important skills. I strongly agree that as high levels of STEM education are needed, educators need to be strongly equipped and knowledgeable in the area to better support students. |
| Implications | Needing to be equipped regarding STEM education is critical to my own teaching practice. I come from a humanities focus in education, and therefore find myself needing to take additional time to learn STEM and become knowledgeable in the topic too. Growing my own knowledge and professional experience in STEM will be one of the most important tasks I have when I begin my teaching practice, as I strongly believe that your own educator and mentor should have a strong knowledge of a topic to be able to teach it effectively. Therefore, if I’m not confident in my own ability to teach STEM, I believe my students will not get the best experience possible. Inspiring passion towards STEM begins with your educator having a passion in the topic they teach. |

**References:**

Dawson V and Venville G (eds) (2020) *The art of teaching primary science,* Routledge.