Fostering Essential Dispositions in Young Children

Example of how the video might be used in a college course

If addressing this concept during one class session:

At home:
Have students view the video at home and complete homework using worksheet before class meets.

In class:
- Review definitions and come to a shared understanding of the concept.
- Have students work in small groups. Assign each group one of the essential dispositions from the video.
- Have each group discuss the following in relation to their assigned disposition of focus:
  o Their own experiences as young children in school, and/or;
  o What they’ve noticed in classrooms (if they have had clinical experiences), and;
  o What they believe about the teacher’s role in fostering that disposition.
- Provide each group with a large paper and markers. Have them create a poster that communicates a message they would want to convey to families about the importance of that disposition.
- Have each group share their ideas (consider reviewing the corresponding segment from the video before each presentation.)
- After each group shares, have the class identify a few strategies that adults could employ to support children’s development of the identified disposition – both at home or school.
- Lead a group discussion about students’ own dispositions in relation to cultivating those dispositions in young children. Identify common practices (e.g., skill and drill) that may hinder this development and brainstorm alternatives.
- Have them work with a partner to evaluate a sample lesson plan with a focus on how well the essential dispositions are addressed. Modify the plan to improve outcomes for children.

Assignment:
Have students create a lesson plan that addresses what children should know and be able to do while also addressing the CT ELDS Essential Dispositions. (If working with children, also implement that plan.)