15 WAYS TO CRAWL SLOWLY INSIDE THEIR BRAINS 1 Ask perceptive [not too nosy] questions all the time. 2 Ask for their opinions.

3 Ask some student 2 questions after class has dismissed.

[see my blog post, "100 Perceptive Questions"]

Plan out your questions but make them sound spontaneous.

4 Visit their homes.

- 5 Contact them after school or work.
- 6 Attend the kinds of events they value [concerts, sports, art exhibits, hobbies,

events,

skateboards, horses, gymnastics, etc.] 7 Yak, yak, yak Listen, listen, listen.

Write something down later on a special notepad if you want.

8 Make up a 20-question survey:

*grade, nickname

*favorite: dessert, hero, sports team, friend, vacation, blah, blah, blah *no digging, just a little interest in kids you've gotten to know *see my blog, "Me, the One-and-Only" Read it with interest

9 STUDY THEM in group interaction:

observe clothes, language, body language, fears hesitancies, attitude toward other peer groups who are the shirlers, who are the idea manual *(the unit mat*)

who are the shirkers, who are the idea people [though not necessarily the doers] faithful, detail-people, leaders, followers, undependable, enthusiastic, etc.

10 Ask a bunch to camp overnight in your backyard: bake chocolate chip cookies together for the pastor or youth pastor, for somebody's birthday, or just for yourselves.

- 11 Find out what their families and friends say about them.
- 12 Hang out at the mall, play soccer-in-the-park, 3-on-3 roundball in the schoolyard.
- 13 Talk to their coaches, teachers, parents, best friends, etc.
- 14 Motivate by example the same stimuli do not work on everybody. [see my blog post, "15 Motivational Buttons"
- 15 Allow for student differences.