

Building Classroom Community (Grades K-3)

In small groups of approximately 3-4 students, create a poster on common favourite topics. This activity allows students in the classroom to find a sense of identity and belonging.

Lesson Objective: Groups of students practice collaboration, share about themselves, learn about their peers, and apply their creativity skills.

Connection with CASEL 5 Core SEL Competencies:

- Social-Awareness
- Self-Awareness
- Relationship-Skills

Materials

- Large Poster Paper
- Drawing and colouring materials (pencil crayons, markers etc.)

Lesson Instructions:

- 1) As a class, have students brainstorm topics of their favourite things together (food, movies, sports, etc.).
- 2) Create groups of 3-4 students and provide them with materials.
- 3) Next, have the small groups create a team name, choose group favourites, and choose symbols that represents each member of the group.

Post-Activity:

Groups of students can present their poster to the whole class. The teacher can post them around the classroom or take pictures of each poster and post them digitally.

Reflection: Have students reflect on the experience of working in small groups.

- Were there challenges?
- What were the positives?
- What did you learn?

Building Classroom Community (Grades 4-7)

In small groups of approximately 3-4 students, create a poster on common favourite topics. This activity allows students in the classroom to find a sense of identity and belonging.

Lesson Objective: Groups of students practice collaboration, share about themselves, learn about their peers, and apply their creativity skills.

Connection with CASEL 5 Core SEL Competencies:

- Social-Awareness
- Self-Awareness
- Relationship-Skills

Materials

- Large Poster Paper
- Drawing and colouring materials (pencil crayons, markers etc.)

Lesson Instructions:

- 4) As a class, brainstorm possible topics that students can include (food, movies, sports, etc.).
- 5) Assign 3-4 students per group and provide them with materials.
- 6) Next, small groups create a team name, choose group favourites, and choose symbols that represent each member of the group.

Post-Activity:

Groups of students can present their posters to the whole class. The teacher can post them around the classroom or take pictures and post them digitally.

Extension Activity:

Reflection: Have students reflect on the experience of working in small groups.

- Were there challenges?
- What were the positives?
- What did you learn?

Relationship Building (Grades 8-12)

Students create a page/poster about one of their peers or an adult in the school. They can choose who they would like to create the one-pager about (e.g. someone they do not know well already). This allows students to get to know others in the school and apply their creativity skills.

Lesson Objective: To build student-to-student and student-to-staff relationships in the school.

Materials

- 8.5 by 11 printer paper
- Drawing and colouring materials (pencil crayons, markers etc.)

Connection with CASEL 5 Core SEL Competencies:

- Relationship Skills
- Social-Awareness Skills

Lesson Instructions:

- 1) On a piece of paper draw an image of the person and write their name.
- 2) Ask three peers for positive quotes about that person.
- 3) Draw three funny or meaningful images and share two inside jokes or memories of the person.
- 4) Make up a thoughtful definition for the person's name.
- 5) Finally, create a border in writing around the page with three or four adjectives to describe the person.

Extension Activity:

Reflection: Have students reflect on their experience in a journal/small groups.

- What did you learn in this activity?
- Did you enjoy connecting with someone new?