

Warm Welcomes establish safety and predictability, support contribution by all voices, set norms for respectful listening, allow people to connect with one another, and create a sense of belonging. To be successful they must be: carefully chosen, connected to the content/work of the day, engagingly facilitated, and thoughtfully debriefed.

*Disclaimer: One must consider student needs, classroom culture, relationships, etc. prior to the introduction on each activity. Modify accordingly.

How Are You Feeling?

Prompt participants to share how they are feeling in different and fun ways. This can help those who are struggling to find the right word to describe their feelings.

Participants may share this in pairs, groups, or as a community:

- Using a song or genre of music
- Using the weather
- Using a number: 1-10
- Using an emoji or GIF
- Movie genre
- Person, place or thing
- Using images (can modify using Padlet or other instructional technology)

SEL Competencies: Self-awareness, Social Awareness

Do You See What I See?

Provide students with an image, shape or design that is either obvious or abstract. Example: Peace sign, triangle, zigzag etc. Ask students to challenge their perspective by recreating the image. What once was a circle, triangle or zigzag can become the base of an ice cream cone or even an animal. You can offer this creative challenge as a daily welcoming ritual. This creative activity supports social awareness and relationships skills through development of flexible thinking skills, perspective taking and appreciation of others. New images can be created daily!

Modification: For a teamwork alternative, group students in pairs to complete the image together.

SEL Competencies: Relationship skills, social awareness, responsible decision making.

Opening questions:

- What kind of music do you like?
- What's your favorite sport to play?
- Where were you born?
- Tell me about the pet(s) you have, or the pet you wished you had.
- What's your favorite ice cream flavor?
- What instrument(s) do you play, or do you want to learn?
- Which cartoon character do you wish was real?
- What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
- What's your favorite thing to do when you're alone?
- Do you have any hidden talents?
- How would you spend a rainy day?
- Who is your favorite superhero?
- What's the bravest thing you've ever done?
- What was your favorite book you read this summer? OR What is something that you learned how to do this summer?
- What's the first thing you do in the morning?

SEL Competencies: Relationship skills, social awareness

Would you rather?:

- Would you rather read a book or watch TV?
- Would you rather have blue hair or green hair?
- Would you rather eat a cupcake or an apple?
- Would you rather have a pet dog or a pet cat?
- Would you rather play at the sand pit or paddle pool?
- Would you rather eat an apple or an orange?
- Would you rather keep flamingos as pets or peacocks?
- Would you rather fly to space or swim to the bottom of the ocean?
- Would you rather be a princess or a dragon?
- Would you rather be a shark or a crocodile?
- Would you rather play outdoors or indoors?

SEL Competencies: Relationship skills, social awareness