

Optimistic closures create an end point for your lesson or activity that allow students to reflect and think about how they will take what they learn into other areas of their lives. They don't have to be overly positive, but rather focus on action and identifying next steps as well as key takeaways from learning.

**SEL Competencies: Self-Awareness - Social Awareness - Responsible Decision-Making**

## Daily Reflection

At the end of class, have everyone do a short reflection based on one of the following prompts:

- What did you contribute to class today?
- What is something you feel more confident in now versus the beginning of class (skill or knowledge)?
- How are you feeling leaving class today?
- How are you feeling about coming to class tomorrow (next class day)?
- If you had to sum up today in three words, what three words would you choose?
- If you set a daily intention, did you reach that goal?
- Have students share with the whole class in a circle, with a partner, in small groups, journal or simply turn into the teacher as an exit ticket.

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## Yay of the Day!

For a quick close, ask each student to share a yay of the day, one positive moment from the day. It could be something new they learned, an 'aha' moment, a connection with someone, a new skill they developed, etc.

## Time Machine

Let everyone know that they have the opportunity to travel back in time (to the beginning of the day or even the beginning of your class), and ask them to identify one thing they would do differently if they could re-live the day/class.

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## TILT (Today I Learned That... or Today I Learned To...)

Have students complete the sentence: Today I learned that.... OR Today I learned to...

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## Word Cloud Reflection (One Word Reflection)

If you are running short on time, another quick closing is a one-word reflection. You can ask all students to share one word to summarize their day, how they are feeling leaving class today, one thing they learned, etc.

**Modification:** Use Mentimeter or Slido (or any other word cloud generator) to create a word cloud to capture the words students share.

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## Pluses and Wishes

Invite students to write down or share out loud things that were pluses (what they liked, felt worked well, helped them learn) and wishes (things they would like to have next time or things they wish were done differently). Have them put it on post it notes or write them on slips of paper and hand them in or stick them up on the board on their way out of class.