

Warm Welcomes

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 students to share how they are feeling in different and fun ways. This can help students who are struggling to find the right word to describe their feelings.
- Students may share this in pairs, groups, independently or as a class. They do not have to share their why although some students may want to.
 - Using a song or genre of music/ the weather/ an emoji or GIF/ a movie genre/ images/ a season

Question of the Day

- Provide students with a daily question to reflect on and answer in community.
- Students can reflect independently through a journal entry/free write, in pairs, groups or whole class discussion.
- Assign students to bring in a "question of the day" and or provide suggestions periodically throughout the year.

Engaging Practices/Instructional Strategies

Engaging Strategies are instructional practices that you may use throughout your class to help students practice SEL skills. They can vary in complexity and length and are designed to help students to intentionally practice what they are learning.

Bumper Stickers

- At the beginning of class, as you are waiting for everyone to arrive, ask students to create a bumper sticker with the most important point from yesterday's lesson. This could be done as individuals, pairs or small groups.
- This gives students something fun, creative and meaningful to do during the first few minutes of class/transition time. It also gives teachers a few minutes to check in with individual students.
- Have students share/hang their bumper stickers. Teachers can also quickly see what students took from yesterday's lesson.

Think/Ink-Pair-Share

A collaborative learning strategy where students work together to solve a problem, answer a question, etc.

- Think/Ink: Students are asked to think independently (could be asked to write, but not necessarily)
- Pair: Students are paired up with another student
- Share: Students share their ideas with their partners and together come up with an idea/'answer' to share with the whole class

Optimistic Closure

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.

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

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

Three W's

Students discuss or write:

- What did you learn today?
- So What?
 - Why does it matter?
 - How is it relevant? Important? Useful?
- Now What?
 - How can you apply what you learned? How does it connect to other things you have learned/are learning?