









# BUILDING BRIDGES

#### **Objective:**

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to engage in conversation with someone they didn't know before, find common interests, and build connections.

#### **Key Points:**

Importance of building relationships and finding common ground with others

Strategies for engaging in conversation and asking open-ended questions

Using active listening skills to understand and connect with others







### OFENING ACTIVITY

#### **Movie Clip**

Begin the lesson by showing a <u>clip from the movie Freedom Writers</u>, specifically the line game scene where students discover commonalities with one another.

Ask students / Group discussion:

- what did you learn from this scene?
- Do you think the students will change as a result of this "game?
- How many people do you pass by everyday without talking to them or noticing them?
- Would you be willing to find something in common with them and get to know them?
- What would be the benefit of getting to know new people?



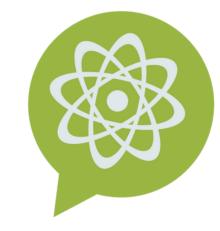
#### **Guided Practice:**

Model proper conversation skills by providing examples and demonstrating active listening.

Scaffold questioning from easy to hard, starting with basic interests and gradually moving towards deeper connections.

Have students come up with a list of questions that will help them get to know someone deeper.

Encourage active listening, empathy, and respect during these discussions.



#### CONVERSATION

#### **Basic questions:**

What are some of your favorite hobbies or interests?

Do you have any favorite books, movies, or TV shows?

What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?

Are there any sports or physical activities that you like to participate in?

Do you have any pets or favorite animals?

Are there any places you've traveled to or would like to visit?

What are your favorite subjects or topics to learn about in school?

Do you have any special talents or skills?

What are some of your favorite foods or restaurants?

Are there any causes or social issues that you feel strongly about?



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#### CONVERSATION

#### Deeper questions:

What are some challenges or obstacles you have overcome in your life? Can you share a significant life experience that has shaped who you are today?

What are your dreams and aspirations for the future?

Have you ever had a mentor or role model who has had a significant impact on your life?

Can you describe a time when you stepped out of your comfort zone and what you learned from it?

How do you define success and happiness in your life?

Is there a cause or issue that you are passionate about and actively involved in?





# VOCABULARY

Comfort zone
Hobbies
Interests
Life experience
Listen
Mentor

**Obstacles** 

**Pets** 

**Skills** 

Social issues

Success

**Travel** 

**Talent** 





# INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Instruct students to complete a graphic organizer where they track their conversations with 10 new people. Encourage students to approach classmates, students from other classes, or people from their neighborhood or local stores.

Provide a template for the graphic organizer, including spaces for the person's name, interests, and discovered connections.





#### CLOSING AND HW

Have students share one interesting connection they discovered during the independent practice activity. Summarize the importance of finding common ground with others and building connections.

For homework, students can write a reflection journal entry about their experience getting to know new people and the impact it had on their understanding of others.





# GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

NAME	INTERESTS	CONNECTIONS



# Discuss the topic of confronting other groups of people through a poem.

Harjo, Joy, Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings: Poems; Copyright © 2015 by W. W. Norton & Company. Reprinted with permission of Anderson Literary Management LLC, 244 Fifth Avenue, Floor 11, New York, NY 10001.

https://poets.org/poem/morning-i-pray-my-enemies

#### POETRY- OFTIONAL

# This Morning I Pray for My Enemies <u>Joy Harjo</u>

And whom do I call my enemy?

An enemy must be worthy of engagement.

I turn in the direction of the sun and keep walking.

It's the heart that asks the question, not my furious mind.

The heart is the smaller cousin of the sun.

It sees and knows everything.

It hears the gnashing even as it hears the blessing.

The door to the mind should only open from the heart.

An enemy who gets in, risks the danger of becoming a friend.



## ICE BREAKER- OFTIONAL

# Find someone who

		L.		
oves to swim	can play a musical instrument	has the most letters in their last name	does not like broccoli	is afraid of spiders
as had tiches	is an only child	wakes up early	is a couch potato	can whistle
as born in anuary	drank coffee this morning	wears socks to bed	bites his/her fingernails	who has more than four siblings
as argued with a friend recently	snores	has seen a snake in the wild	won a contest	has fainted or thrown up in public
njoys naths	can use chopsticks	likes very spicy food	hasn't had breakfast today	watches more than one hour of TV every day

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