

Plan on a Page

Lesson 4: Group Membership and Belonging

Guiding Questions:

- Why do we seek out belonging in groups?
 - What can we gain and lose from belonging to a group?
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Activities

Activity 1: Mix and Mingle to Develop Schema

- Let students know that they will be thinking about their membership in groups, and what we may gain or lose by belonging to a group. They are going to start with a 'Mix and Mingle' activity where they will each receive a card with a short quotation from a text they will be reading in class today.
- Pass out the cards so each student has one. Have students read their card and then think about their response to the following question: *Based on your card, what might the text be about? What makes you say that?*
- Then invite students to get out of their seats and mix and mingle with their classmates. Once paired, have them share their cards with one another, discuss how their cards might be related, and make one or more predictions about the text based on their card. Repeat so students have opportunities to mingle with 4-5 other students.

Activity 2: Read and Discuss an Informational Text about Belonging

- Tell students that next, they will be reading the source of their cards, an informational text about belonging.
- Pass out and read **Why Do People Need to Belong?** using your chosen strategy (see Lesson Plan). As you read, pause to answer any clarifying questions that arise.

Activity 3: Discuss the Reading in Rotating Groups

- Use the **Conver-station strategy**¹ to discuss the reading (See Teaching Note 2). Move students into groups of four and have them count off by four within their groups. They need to remember their numbers! Then instruct them to discuss the first connection question that follows the reading. They should record notes because they will be sharing their ideas with people in other groups.
- After they have finished with the first question, instruct the 1s to move to a new group. They should share highlights from their discussion of the first question and learn what their new group discussed. Then have the groups discuss the second question.
- Repeat this process with questions 2-5. For the second round, the 2's can move to a different group while other students remain sitting. Each discussion round should start with students sharing their thoughts from the previous question before moving on to the new question. Then a different number moves so the composition of the groups changes with each round.

Activity 4: Reflect on New Understandings

- Use the **Connect, Extend, Challenge** strategy to help students reflect on their learning from this lesson in a private journal reflection on an **exit card**.
 - **Connect:** How do the ideas and information in The Importance of Belonging reading connect to what you already know about belonging, group membership, and values?
 - **Extend:** How does this reading extend or broaden your thinking about belonging, group membership, and values?
 - **Challenge:** Does this reading challenge or complicate your understanding of belonging, group membership, and values? What new questions does it raise for you?

¹ Gonzalez, "The Big List of Class Discussion Strategies."

