

WCSD Sample Student Voice Activities

Poverty Post-It Notes

Provide participants an opportunity to explore what poverty means to them.
(~ 5 minutes)



Materials:

Blank paper OR Post-It notes
Pens/Pencils/Markers

Steps:

1. Before defining poverty, ask participants to write/draw on a sheet of paper what poverty means to them.
2. Have them pair up with a partner to describe why they drew/wrote what they did.
3. When done, students can pin their notes onto the wall to see how other students interpret the term "poverty."
4. Can be expanded into a class discussion about what patterns show up on the post-it notes.
5. Note: This framing activity can be used with any topic you want students to think about before discussing in detail. Some ideas:
 - Draw a scientist (frames discussion about all the different types of scientists in the world)
 - Draw a social and emotional skill (e.g. what does self-management look like to you?)
 - Draw yourself doing a math problem

Quiz, Quiz, Trade, Trade (QQT)

Provide participants an opportunity to get to know each other! (~ 5-10 minutes)



Materials:

1 Deck of QQT cards (contains 30 questions)
→ Can be retrieved from SIV website
Background music helps!

Steps:

1. Have students pick a card from the QQT deck.
2. Turn on music!
3. Students raise hand in the air to find partner.
4. Partners introduce themselves.
5. One person will ask their question and their partner will answer.
6. Then the other person asks their question and their partner will answer.
7. Trade cards, partners thank each other (by name), & raise hand to find new partner.

WCSD Sample Student Voice Activities

M&Ms Climate Brainstorm

Provide participants an opportunity to think about ways to improve their SEL skills and their school community. (~ 5-15 minutes)



Materials:

M&M cards
Cards have facts from the Student Climate Survey on side and pictures of M&Ms on the other side (M&M colors represent different topics from survey)

Steps:

1. Students in groups of 2-3 draw a fact card from the deck. These are real facts from the 2016 Student Climate Survey that students in 5th and 6th grade take every year!
2. Students read the card.
3. Each student spends 5-8 minutes thinking or writing out how they would answer the question on the card.
4. Students share their ideas in a round-robin fashion with other students (1-2 minutes per student).
5. A notetaker writes down the ideas.
6. An elected speaker reads out the ideas the group came up with to the rest of the class.
7. Can be expanded further so that students select a fact that's most interesting to them and plan a project to help further study the issue and develop solutions for improving it.

Knot Activity

This icebreaker is used to promote team building, communication, and problem solving. (~ 10 minutes)



Materials:

Students/Participants!

Steps:

1. Form groups of 5-10 people each.
 2. Have group member stand, facing each other in a circle shoulder-to-shoulder.
 3. Lift left hand and grab the hand of someone across the circle, then do the same with the right hand. (No one should be holding hands with someone next to them.)
 4. Try to untangle the knot!
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WCSD Sample Student Voice Activities

SEL Skill Reflection

Provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their own SEL strengths and challenges. (~ 10 minutes)

Materials:

SEL skill deck
Box sheet

Steps:

1. Each student is given the 9 social and emotional skill cards and sorts the cards from hardest to easiest for them.
2. Students put 3 skills in each box on the box sheet provided ("hardest for me to do," "somewhat hard/somewhat easy for me to do," "easiest for me to do"). Students must put 3 in each box.
3. Once sorted, students select their one very hardest and one very easiest skill then find a partner in the room.
4. Person A spends 1 minute explaining their very easiest skill (which they selected and why they think it's easier for them to do). Then Person B does the same.
5. Person A spends 1 minute explaining their very hardest skill (why that skill is harder for them to do). Then Person B does the same.



Pivot Questionnaire

Provide participants an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings on the 10 questions used in the Actor's Studio (slightly modified) and create a brief 2-5 minute video of themselves responding to the questions. (~ 25 minutes)

Materials:

iPad, iPhone, or other video source
Recording device
Pivot Questionnaire
→ Can be retrieved from SIV website

Steps:

1. Students write out responses to 9 questions. (~ 5 minutes)
2. Students play with iMovie software and plan their video idea (students can use an avatar, film themselves, or film an object with their voice in the background). (~ 10 minutes)
3. Students record video.
4. Ask for students that want to share their video with the class. (as many minutes needed)



WCSD Sample Student Voice Activities

True Colors Design-a-School

Students identify their "True Color" personality type using the questionnaire provided. They then work in same-color groups to design their perfect school. (45 minutes +)



Materials:

True Color survey
→ Can be referenced on SIV website
School reflection sheet

Steps:

1. Students take the True Color survey to find out their personality type (strengths and weaknesses).
2. Students form into groups with their same color.
3. Students use reflection sheet to think about how their perfect school would look and feel.
4. Groups present!

Y Activity

Participants are given the opportunity to discuss major issues uncovered in the Climate Survey and voice their opinions on why they believe these issues are happening and how the data could be improved. (45 min. +)



Materials:

Large sheet of blank paper separated into 3 sections (like a Y)
→ Top is topic question, Left is "Why is this happening?" Right is "What can we do to improve the data?"
Markers/Pens

Steps:

1. Present data to students on the four chosen topics from the Climate Survey (student drug and alcohol use, teacher work stress, student satisfaction in school, and relationship skills).
 2. Student choose which topic is most intriguing to them and are formed into groups with students who have the same interest.
 3. Provide poster to each group with corresponding topic question.
 4. Have students discuss and write their opinions on the poster regarding why they believe these issues are happening and how the data could be improve.
 5. Present!
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WCSD Sample Student Voice Activities

Relationship Skills Guessing Game

Students are provided an opportunity to discuss relationship skills and share their opinions on what they think is the easiest and most difficult. (~ 20 minutes)



Materials:

- 6 Items from relationship skills
- Paper & Pen
- Relationship skills answer sheet
 - Can be referenced on SIV website

Steps:

1. Students are presented with 6 items from relationship skills scale of Student Climate Survey.
 2. They order the skills from 1-6 depending on what they think students rated as the most or least difficult for them to do.
 3. Students pair up with someone new and describe why they ordered the skills the way they did.
 4. After discussion reveal the answer key and, in groups of 4, discuss what surprised and didn't surprise them, what patterns they notice among all 28 relationship skill items, and how schools could do a better job supporting students' skills.
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Toothpaste Activity

Provide an opportunity for participants a chance to discuss the effect of bullying, how it has a lifetime impacts, and how hard it is to take back hurtful words. (~ 5-10 minutes)



Materials:

- Paper plates
 - Toothpaste tubes
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Steps:

1. Place a paper plate with a closed tube of toothpaste at the center of each table.
 2. Ask students to squeeze the entire tube onto the plate.
 3. Instruct the students to try to put the toothpaste back into the tube.
 4. This is a hands-on example of how hard it can be to take back hurtful words that have already been said.
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