The New 3 R's of Education Activities Workbook

Relevance, Relationships, Rigor

A FREE RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS CREATED TO INCREASE CURRICULUM RELEVANCE, RELATIONSHIPS, AND RIGOR. AND IN THAT ORDER! WE MUST FIRST BECOME RELEVANT TO OUR STUDENTS BY INCORPORATING CREATIVE AND ENGAGING CONTENT. THEN WE MUST BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR STUDENTS BY ALLOWING OUR SPACES TO BE STUDENT-CENTERED, STUDENT-LEAD, AND STUDENT-CALIBRATED. THEN WE CAN INCREASE THE RIGOR AND OUR EXPECTATIONS BY DEVELOPING CURRICULUM AND LESSONS WITH A LASTING IMPACT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

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The Playlist

CREATE A PLAYLIST FOR:

- THEIR SUMMER ACTIVITIES OR VIBE
- THE SOUNDTRACK OF THEIR LIFE (TOP SONGS IN THE YEARS THEY'VE BEEN ALIVE)
- CURRENT EVENTS (SOCIAL JUSTICE, GENDER EQUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ETC)

DEBRIEF

- WHY DID YOU PICK THOSE SONGS?
- HOW EASY WAS IT TO FIND SONGS THAT MATCHED YOUR TOPIC?
- WHAT IS THE TONE/MOOD OF THE SONGS?
- WHAT DO THESE SONGS SAY ABOUT STATE OF THE TOPIC (IS IT POSITIVE, IS THE OUTCOME LOOKING GOOD, DEPRESSED, NEGATIVE, ETC)

WHAT'S THE POINT?

CREATING THIS PLAYLIST ALLOWS FOR SELF-EXPRESSION AND CREATES A STUDENT-CENTERED AND STUDENT-CALIBRATED CONVERSATIONS. FACILITATORS CAN CREATE ONE TOO AND COMPARE THE TONE/OUTLOOK OF SITUATIONS. HAVE WE CHANGED OR ARE WE STILL FIGHTING THE SAME BATTLES?

THIS CAN EVOLVE INTO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT VOICE, CONTROL (ARTIST VS. LABEL), HISTORY, ETC. THE PLAYLIST NOW PROVIDE A COLLECTIVE BACKDROP STUDY TIME, TRIPS, ETC. IT IS ALSO A GREAT WAY TO GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE STUDENTS, THEY CAN GUESS WHO CREATED THE PLAYLIST, OR WHY THEY CHOOSE A SONG.

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The Family Tree

CREATE A FAMILY TREE FOR:

- FAVORITE FOODS
- GENRE OF MUSIC
- CAREER CHOICES
- MOVIES, SERIES, ACTORS
- LAWS, COMMUNITIES, POLITICS/POLITICIANS

DEBRIEF

- What surprised you about the roots of your topic?
- How is your current community/culture connected to your topic?
- What factors impacted the creation, influence, and growth of your topic? (Economics, health, immigration, collaboration, etc.)

WHAT'S THE POINT?

GETTING TO THE ROOTS OR ROOT OF THINGS HELPS GIVE A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR WORLD. SEEING THE EVOLUTION OF YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC GENRE, FOOD, OR ACTOR CAN BE TIED IN TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE STUDENT, THE CULTURE, THE COUNTRY.

THE TIE-INS FOR CONVERSATIONS ON ECONOMICS, CHARACTER, IMMIGRATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ARE ENDLESS. NOW WHEN YOU HAVE A PIZZA NIGHT OR TACO TUESDAY, IT CAN BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PRESENTATION ON HOW THAT FOOD CAME TO BE AND THE STORY BEHIND IT ENDING UP IN WESTERN CULTURE, HOW YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST OWES THERE SOUND/PLATFORM TO ONE OF YOUR GRANDPARENTS FAVORITE ARTIST, OR HOW THE LAWS ON THE BOOKS NOW ARE RELATED TO DECADE OR CENTURY OLD IDEAS

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The Brackets

CREATE A BRACKET FOR:

- FAVORITE FOOD
- MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSIC GENRE
- BEST SNEAKER
- MOST LIT CITY
- BEST CAREER

DEBRIEF

- How do we collectively agree and define what's best?
- What is the criteria for winning a bracket?
- How do we resolve conflict (ties, differences in opinion, etc)
- Do you feel the process was fair?
- Did the best thing actually win?

WHAT'S THE POINT?

WHETHER THE BRACKETS LAST FOR A LESSON, A DAY, OR AN ENTIRE YEAR, THEY ARE SURE TO GENERATE ENGAGEMENT AND DISCUSSION. STUDENTS ENGAGE IN THE POWER OF COMPROMISE, COLLABORATION, AND PERSUASION. WANT TO REALLY TURN UP THE ENGAGEMENT? ASSIGN STUDENTS/GROUPS A TOPIC TO CHAMPION OR LOBBY, BONUS POINTS IF ITS A TOPIC YOU KNOW THEY DON'T AGREE WITH!

THIS ACTIVITY LEADS TO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE POLITICAL PROCESS, FORCED RANKED METRICS, DECISION MAKING, AND ETHICS. STUDENTS CAN FIND THE BEST COLLEGE, MAJOR, ETC. ALL WHILE DEFINING THE PARAMETERS, GAINING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR PEERS, AND CHALLENGING THEIR OWN BELIEFS THROUGH REFLECTION