



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH, INC

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STRATEGIES TO BUILD PEACE, RESPECT AND

COMMUNITY WITHIN YOUR CLASSROOM

Developed by Nate Terrell, LCSW and Anita Foeman, Ph.D.

- 1) Model the attitudes and behaviors you want your students to learn by always remaining calm, treating them with respect, resolving conflicts effectively, listening carefully to them, taking responsibility for your own mistakes, etc.
- 2) Share of yourself so that your students can get to know who you are and feel comfortable talking about their own lives.
- 3) Develop and maintain a classroom environment within which all students feel comfortable, safe and free to express their individuality.
- 4) Provide an opportunity for each student to anonymously identify what they are uniquely sensitive about and discuss the results with the entire class.
- 5) Collaboratively develop group norms for classroom conduct with the students themselves and hold them accountable for following them.
- 6) Provide ample opportunities for students to talk about what is going on in their lives both at school and at home. This helps make school relevant to students and enables both teachers and fellow students to become more sensitive to the challenges faced by each student so that they can provide them with the support they need.
- 7) Teach students specific skills such as active listening, effective conflict resolution, mediation, etc. and enable them to practice them through role play and psychodrama.
- 8) Use cooperative learning strategies to help students develop the ability to work effectively together to complete assignments.
- 9) Teach students how they can support each other academically, emotionally, socially, and behaviorally.
- 10) Provide students with opportunities to engage in team building activities which promote mutual understanding and trust.
- 11) Use negotiation and consensus to teach students problem-solving skills and enable them to take greater ownership of classroom decisions, consequences, activities, etc.
- 12) Mobilize students to become involved in service projects which help them learn the rewards of helping others.

- 13) Develop organized activities and/or games at recess which are supervised by adults and promote a high level of student participation and teamwork.
- 14) Enable students to collaboratively achieve specific rewards for good behavior, completed homework assignments, etc. such as a fun activity, food treats, etc.
- 15) Provide students with the opportunity to openly discuss differences among them such as race, culture, gender, body type, religion, sexual orientation, social class and ability.
- 16) Develop and maintain clear policies and guidelines regarding student behavior and provide quick and decisive intervention when students behave inappropriately. When students know that their teacher is in charge, they are free to focus on learning, developing effective social skills, building relationships, etc.
- 17) Respond effectively every time a student reports that she/he was mistreated.
- 18) Provide new students with a thorough orientation to your classroom to give them a sense of belonging and familiarize them with classroom procedures, expectations, etc.
- 19) Establish routine “check ins” at the beginning and ending of each class and/or day to give students an opportunity to reflect on how they are feeling, report what they have learned, identify challenges they face, etc.
- 20) Hold regular classroom meetings to help students get to know each other on a deeper level, collaboratively resolve relevant classroom problems such as bullying, plan future events, etc.

