



## Classroom Community Building Activities

The purpose of using community building activities is to strengthen and cultivate the community in the classroom between the teacher and the students. These activities allow students and teachers to interact with one another and develop a strong positive relationship. This relationship is a crucial component of being an effective teacher and will help establish a safe and supportive learning environment.

Community building activities are particularly helpful at the beginning of the school year, because they foster the development of a positive classroom environment and relationships. Additionally, community building activities are useful after school breaks and should be used throughout the school year to keep the classroom cohesive.

There are a wide variety of community building activities that can be used with students. When doing culture building activities, ensure that you are participating with your students; this will foster the most bonding. Common community building activities include sharing acts of kindness, icebreaker social activity, Socratic seminars, creating class norms, paper tweets/Instagram posts, even games like two truths and one lie or Jeopardy can be effective at cultivating the learning environment and bringing everyone together.

The community building activity included with this resource is a narrative-style writing activity. This activity has been modified and tailored to elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms. This resource can be further tailored to specific subjects, grade levels, and settings as necessary. Please note the activity below can be modified for virtual/distance learning- instruct students to email their picture with their written assignment. Consider uploading the pictures to a shared location so that all of your students may view them.

Adapted for Grades (4-6), Grades (7-12), Grades (9-12)



*Elementary Setting:*

## **The Story of Me**

The purpose of this assignment is for me to get a better understanding of you! The questions below were written for me to get a better understanding of who you are as a person -- where you have been, where you are at now, and where you will be going. Please answer the questions below using as much detail as possible.

*Directions:* Answer the questions below. The purpose of this assignment is for me to get to know you; any information that helps me understand who you are is welcome!

- Where are you from?
- What is your favorite memory?
- If your friends had to describe you in three words, what words would they be and why?
- If an adult in your life was asked what you are good at, what would they say and why?
- What was a recent time you were proud of yourself? What did you learn about yourself?
- Where will you be in five years? Where will you be in 10 years?
- What did I forget to ask that is important for me to know?

After you finish answering the questions above, your last job is to bring in a picture, drawing, painting, or a quote, something that represents who you are. You will be sharing this with me in a personal meeting. In addition to personal meetings, we will have a class discussion during which you can choose one thing to share with the class, either from these questions or something else about yourself that you want to share.

*Middle School Setting:*

## **The Story of Me**

The purpose of this assignment is for me to get a better understanding of you! The questions below were written for me to get a better understanding of who you are as a person -- where you have been, where you are at now, and where you will be going. Please answer the questions below using as much detail as possible.

*Directions:* You will be writing a minimum 300-word essay. Below are some guiding questions you can use to write your paper. You do not have to answer these questions. The purpose of this assignment is for me to get to know you; any information that helps me understand who you are is welcome!

- Where are you from?
- What is your favorite memory?
- If your friends had to describe you in three words, what words would they be and why?
- If an adult in your life was asked what you are good at, what would they say and why?
- What was a recent time you were proud of yourself? What did you learn about yourself?
- Where will you be in five years? Where will you be in 10 years?
- What did I forget to ask that is important for me to know?

After you complete the writing portion of this assignment, your last requirement is to bring in a picture, drawing, painting, or a quote, something that represents who you are. You will be sharing this with me in a personal meeting. In addition to personal meetings, we will have a class discussion during which you can choose one thing to share with the class either from these questions or something else about yourself that you want to share.

*High School Setting:*

## **The Story of Me**

The purpose of this assignment is for me to get a better understanding of you! The questions below were written for me to get a better understanding of who you are as a person -- where you have been, where you are at now, and where you will be going. Please answer the questions below using as much detail as possible.

*Directions:* You will be writing a minimum of 500 words using MLA format. Below are some guiding questions you can use to write your paper. You do not have to answer these questions. The purpose of this assignment is for me to get to know you; any information that helps me understand who you are is welcome!

- Where are you from?
- What is your favorite memory?
- If your friends had to describe you in three words, what words would they be and why?
- If an adult in your life was asked what you are good at, what would they say and why?
- What was a recent time you were proud of yourself? What did you learn about yourself?
- Where will you be in five years? Where will you be in 10 years?
- What did I forget to ask that is important for me to know?

After you write your paper, your last requirement is to bring in a picture, drawing, painting, or a quote, something that represents who you are. You will be sharing this with me in a personal meeting. In addition to personal meetings, we will have a class discussion during which you can choose one thing to share with the class, either from these questions or something else about yourself that you want to share.

## **Biology ... The Study of Us!**

Biology is the study of life. As humans, we certainly fall into that category of life. This assignment is titled “Biology...The Study of Us!” The purpose of this assignment is for me to get a better understanding of who you are as a person, where you have been, where you are at now, and where you will be going.

*Directions:* You will be **writing a minimum of 500 words using MLA format**. Below are some guiding questions you can use to write your paper. You do not have to answer these questions. The purpose of this assignment is for me to get to know you; any information that helps me understand who you are is welcome!

- Where are you from?
- What is your favorite memory?
- If your friends had to describe you in three words, what words would they be and why?
- If an adult in your life was asked what you are good at, what would they say and why?
- What was a recent time you were proud of yourself?? What did you learn about yourself?
- Where will you be in five years? Where will you be in 10 years?
- What did I forget to ask that is important for me to know?

After you write your paper, your last requirement is to bring in a picture, drawing, painting, or a quote, something that represents who you are. You will be sharing this with me in a personal meeting and you will have the option to pin your item to the “Biology ... The Study of Us!” Wall.