



# Relationship-Building Strategies

Building a positive relationship with students assists teachers in developing a strong classroom culture that impacts classroom management and student performance. Relationship building strategies can provide non-contingent positive attention to students and promote positive teacher-student relationships.

In taking advantage of the classroom-level strategies below, teachers become empowered to utilize activities to gain more knowledge about students while building positive relationships.

## Best Practice Indicators

- Positive, warm, respectful, encouraging
- Understanding and empathizing with student
- Consultative and approachable (i.e., coach, mentor, model, guide)
- Substantive, descriptive feedback

Relationship-building Strategy	What it is...	What it looks/sounds like...
Interview Students	Teachers engage in conversations with students to learn from and about students.	When teachers learn of a student's interest in a particular subject area, the teacher remains mindful of interest when lesson planning.
Back-and-Forth Mini Journal	Teacher and student have a journal.	Every day the teacher writes one positive thing the student did and the student writes one positive thing the teacher did.
Use the 4H Method	How to greet students everyday with one of the four H's.  <i>Note: Be consistent and continue to greet students for an extended period of time.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Handshake</li> <li>2. High-five</li> <li>3. Hello</li> <li>4. How are you?</li> </ol>
Guided Choices	Teacher gives students choices often in class, so they truly feel they have a voice.	<i>"For homework, I would like you to solve 5 problems on page 8. You pick the 5."</i>
Good Things	Teacher will allow students to share good experiences that occurred recently.	For the first 3-5 minutes of class, call on a variety of students from day to day and prevent individual students from monopolizing the conversation. Encourage the class to applaud or acknowledge the good things shared.
1 week Positive Campaign	Teacher should find a positive quality that the student displays related to a specific behavior goal.	Spend one week praising the student each time he/she demonstrates this quality. Use descriptive feedback.
2x10 Method	Teacher should spend two uninterrupted, undivided minutes of attention to a student each day for 10 consecutive days.  <i>Note: This method works particularly well to improve your relationships with the students for whom you have had challenges.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions, solicit students' interest or share your own. Do not use this time to correct the student's behavior or academics and do not try to change behavior.</li> <li>• Be prepared to do most of the initiating of the conversation at the beginning.</li> <li>• By the end of the 10 days, most find that conversation is more a 50-50 give and take.</li> </ul>
Give assignments that allow students to share their experiences and interests	Teacher will develop lesson plans for the assigned content area to include students' interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language Arts – assignments might include journal writing or essay writing</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Studies – assignments might include family history projects or local community-studies projects</li> <li>• Mathematics or Science – assignments might include student-constructed word problems or community-based inquiry projects where students investigate the effects of environmental realities on health, crime, and/or poverty in their community</li> </ul>
<p>“Find Someone in this Class Who...” Scavenger Hunt</p>	<p>Teacher can create a sheet listing several categories with a line next to each one. Then students, circulate and must find someone who has experienced each category.</p>	<p><i>Example:</i> “Has been to the ocean,” Has a brother and a sister,” or “Has broken a bone”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student must ask for their classmate’s name and write it on the line next to the category.</li> <li>• Teacher could collect the sheets, choose different items to share and, depending upon the class and comfort level, ask students to share more details about a specific experience.</li> </ul>

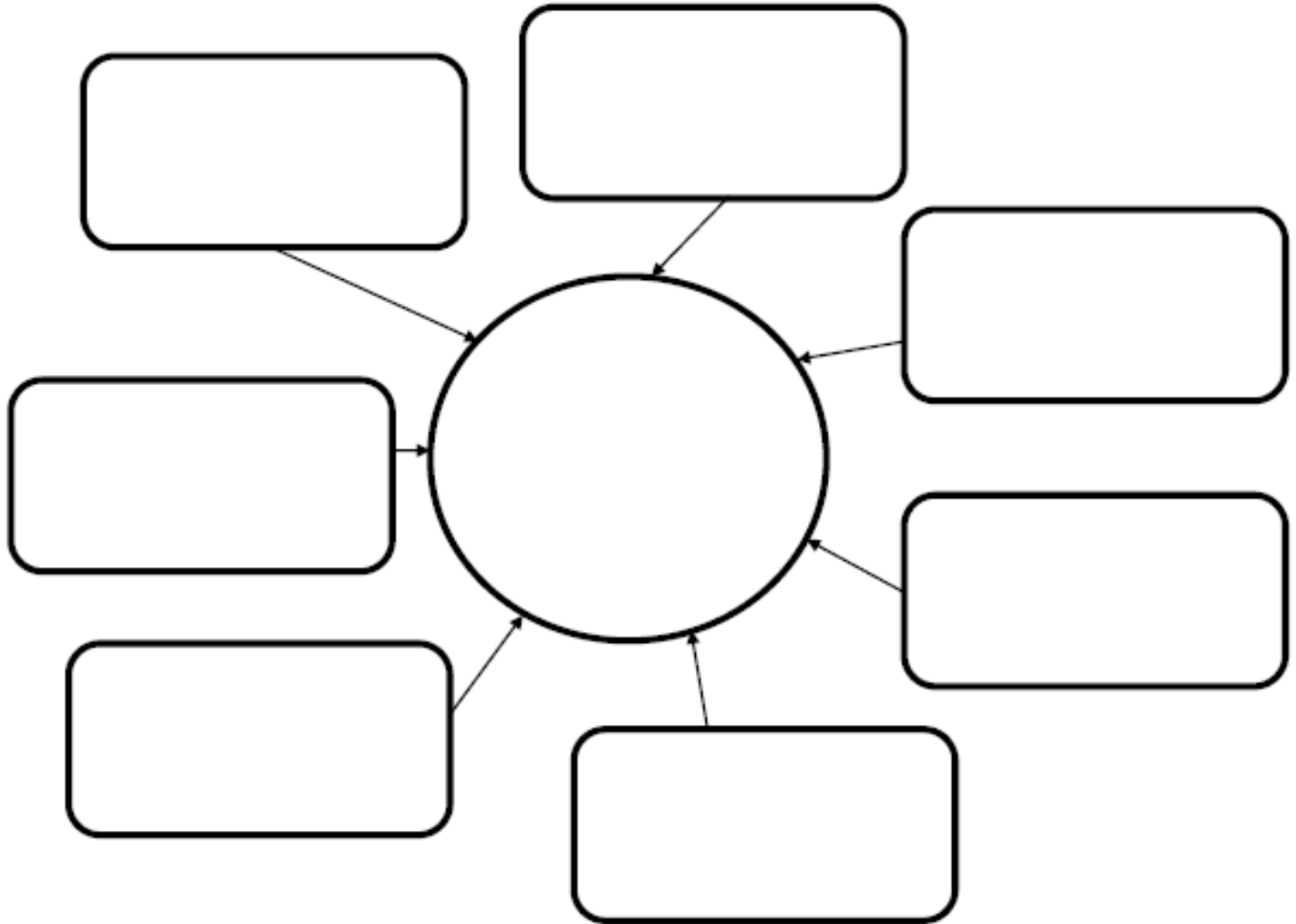
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## Building a Culture Map

To complete the activity:

Put your name in the circle, consider the life events that have shaped you and *your* personal culture, put significant events in the boxes around the circle, and answer the questions below the graphic.



1. How does your culture impact your teaching?
2. What aspects of your culture impact your relationship with students?
3. What aspects of your culture impact your relationship with colleagues?
4. What aspects of your culture impact your perspective on education?