



Classroom Community Check-Ins

Classroom community circle check-ins can help students build caring relationships with their peers and teachers. However, for introverted students this can be uncomfortable. Creating a Group in Teams for asynchronous video conversations* provides a safe space for students to share and interact with one another without the pressure of live interactions. Daily classroom check-ins through a class Group is a great way to break through barriers, build community, and promote social emotional learning.

*Students who would prefer not to be on camera can use a sticky note to cover the mobile device camera and only record their voice.



ESTIMATED TIME 5–10 min.



BEST FOR Student Learning



LEVEL Elementary, Middle School, High School



INSTRUCTIONAL SKILLS Questioning, Explaining, Inferences

GET STARTED

- Create a Group in Teams specifically for building classroom community
- Each week, record a video with the check-in question students can respond to

DIRECTIONS

- ① Students record responses to daily check-in questions, for example:
 - Name one high and one low from yesterday.
 - Name one thing you are excited about today.
 - What was the best part of last week?
 - What was the most challenging thing about last week?
 - What is your goal this week?
- ② Teacher moderates discussion by reviewing recordings before sharing them to the Group.
- ③ Students view recordings from peers and respond with time-stamped comments.

STRATEGY ALTERNATIVES

Groups can be used to help students and teachers get to know one another at the beginning of the school year. Students can respond to questions that help them share more about themselves and find connections among peers. Examples of get-to-know-you prompts:

- How would your best friend describe you?
- Who is your hero and why?
- What was your favorite vacation and why?
- What are you excited about this school year?
- Name one thing that makes you laugh