

Quick Consolidation: Engage to Build Community

When you create a classroom community through activities, it fosters camaraderie and reduces inappropriate student behavior. Moreover, by ensuring your classroom feels like a functioning, healthy community, you will find you consistently have continuously engaged learners. If you already use these classroom activities like rituals, reciprocal teaching, and celebrations, I invite you to sharpen them to get the most value. If you don't already use them, please give them a try. With this firmly in mind, answer the following reflection questions on ways you can make your classroom a thriving, engaging community for your students.

1. What did you learn in this chapter about the importance of building a classroom community that you didn't already know?
2. Think about some of the common problems you listed at the start of this chapter. What new rituals could you create (or what existing rules could you change) to help the whole class buy in to addressing them?
3. What are some lessons you already teach that would benefit students to learn from reciprocal teaching?
4. Which of the reciprocal teaching strategies present in this chapter would be perfect for engaging students with those lessons?
5. Think of some of the small, whole-class success stories you've witnessed in the past year. What could you do differently to ensure those successes don't go unrecognized?