

Figure 2.1: Teachers' Creating Affirmation Practices

1. **Craft a collective classroom affirmation statement.**

- At the start of the school year, work with your students to create an affirmation statement that reflects their vision for the classroom environment.
- Display the affirmation prominently in the classroom and refer to it.
- Tie the classroom affirmation to the school's mission statement, creating consistency and reinforcing the message of belonging.

2. **Revisit and reflect.**

- Throughout the year, revisit the affirmation statement. By reflecting, you maintain relevance and allow the affirmation to evolve as your classroom grows together. At midyear, ask students the following questions.
 - "Do we still feel good about this statement?"
 - "Should we make adjustments based on what we've learned so far?"
 - "What should we add or remove?"

3. **At the end of the year, ask students to reflect on how the affirmation shaped their experiences.**

- "How did our affirmation influence how we treated each other?"
- "What part of the affirmation felt most meaningful to you?"
- "What advice would you give next year's class about creating their own affirmation?"