

2a: The Classroom Environment

What is Respect?

Have students work individually to fill in circle #1 with the initials of three to five people that they respect. These can be people they know, celebrities, or historical figures. Give them about three minutes. Then have students write down five characteristics of these people in circle #2.

Put students in cooperative groups, and have them share their characteristics. Ask them to reach a consensus on three words that best summarize their collective thinking about respect. As a class, generate a master list of words based on the report from each group. Start with one group and ask them to share one word, move to the next group and continue until you've recorded all the words they wrote.

Discuss the meaning of these words as a group, asking students what they do or say in the classroom that conveys these characteristics.

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