


Teaching Adolescents

Facilitation Plan





RESOURCES




- [Teaching Adolescents](#) (Google Slides)
- [Teaching Adolescents: Thought Catcher](#) (Google Doc)





Session Prep




Session Goals	<p>After you lead this session, your colleagues will be able to use knowledge of the teenage brain and community building strategies to build a positive classroom community.</p>
How to Prepare	<p>Facilitator preparation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preview the session activities that follow. Preview the resources listed above. Take note of any additions or changes you would like to make. 2. Make a copy of the Teaching Adolescents Google Slides. Edit for your needs. Preview all video clips and ensure you have sound capabilities to show them in the session to the whole group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○  TIME CRUNCH If time for this session is limited, you may choose to skip the video clips on Slides 4-7 and Slide 15, or only watch some of them. 3. Make a copy of the Teaching Adolescents: Thought Catcher Google document. Edit for your needs. 4. Ask participants to bring their devices with them for individual and cooperative work during the session. 5. <i>Optional:</i> Print copies of the articles participants will read during this session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why Teens Should Understand Their Own Brains (And Why Their Teachers Should, Too!) ○ Why You Shouldn't "Build Community" ○ 6 Strategies for Building Better Student Relationships



Session Framework

<p>Slide 2</p>	<p> FEEDBACK FOCUS</p> <p><i>Where are we going?</i></p> <p>Share session goal. Have students find a partner sitting next to them to work with during the session.</p>
<p>Slide 3</p>	<p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>Open your thought catchers and make a copy to your personal drive. Write the first words/phrases that come to mind when you think about teenagers. Don't think too long, just write what you think of first.</i></p> <p><i>Building relationships is key to teaching teenagers. Before you can truly form strong student teacher relationships though, you need to get to know your students. Whether you think so or not, the media, your own upbringing, and your own interactions with teenagers (whether positive or negative) have shaped your views of teenagers.</i></p> <p><i>We are going to watch four film clips. As you watch them, think about how these clips portray teens.</i></p> <p> TIME CRUNCH</p> <p>If time for this session is limited, watch only 1-2 movie clips or move straight to slide 8 without watching the video clips.</p>
<p>Slides 4-7</p>	<p>Watch the movie clips as a whole group. Save any discussion until the clips are done.</p>
<p>Slide 8</p>	<p> REFLECTION</p> <p>Allow time for participants to reflect on the following questions individually. Then facilitate a group discussion and allow time for participants to share their thoughts with the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think influences the way you think about teenagers?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do the movie clips align with the way you perceive teenagers? In your opinion, what do the movie clips get wrong? What do they get right?
Slides 9-10	<p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>To develop strong relationships with adolescents, we may have to reframe any negative preconceived notions or past experiences. We may not even realize the way our perceptions of teens affect how we respond to them in the moment or how it can color our interactions with them.</i></p> <p>Consider this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can students learn from you if they don't like you?</i> • <i>Can students learn from you if they don't have a positive relationship with you?</i> <p>Allow a short time for individual reflection on these questions, then watch the TedTalk as a whole group.</p>
Slide 11	<p>Lead a discussion about the TedTalk using the same framing questions posed before watching, but from Rita Pierson's point of view.</p> <p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>How would Rita Pierson answer?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can students learn from you if they don't like you?</i> • <i>Can students learn from you if they don't have a positive relationship with you?</i> <p><i>Do you agree with her? Take a moment to reflect on your own before turning to your partner and sharing your thoughts.</i></p> <p>If time allows, lead a group discussion after participants have had time to share with their partners.</p>
Slide 12	<p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>So, if relationships are so important, and possibly the foundation of all learning, how do you build them?</i></p>

	<p><i>You start by understanding the teenage brain and, depending on your own biases, shifting the way you view teenage behaviors.</i></p> <p><i>For example, what you may have initially viewed as immaturity may actually be a fantastic neurological flexibility that allows your students to explore and take risks.</i></p>
<p>Slide 13</p>	<p> ACTIVE LEARNING PRO-TIP</p> <p>Ask participants to form a small group by joining with another partner pair around them and read the article, Why Teens Should Understand Their Own Brains (And Why Their Teachers Should, Too!) Each group should prepare a list of key takeaways about the teenage brain in their thought catchers.</p> <p>Once small groups have discussed, allow time for each group to share their takeaways with the whole group.</p>
<p>Slides 14-15</p>	<p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>Before you can learn and apply concrete strategies to build relationships, there is one more step: understanding the effect of a positive relationship on the teenage brain.</i></p> <p><i>Understanding your effect on your students is not meant to put the weight of the world on your shoulders; it is meant to show you that relationships are important, not just fuzzy ideas. You matter! Your words and actions matter!</i></p> <p><i>We are going to watch a video about building positive relationships. Record your top takeaways in your thought catcher. You will have an opportunity to share and discuss after.</i></p> <p>Watch the video and have participants share their thoughts and takeaways with their partner when done.</p> <p> TIME CRUNCH</p> <p>If time for this session is limited, move straight to the articles on slide 16 without watching the video.</p> <p> DIFFERENTIATE</p> <p>Inform participants that the article Building Positive Relationships With</p>

	<p>Students: What Brain Science Says is linked in the thought catcher for those who want to take a deeper dive after the session. Participants can add their top takeaways to this section of their thought catchers.</p>
<p>Slide 16</p>	<p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>Now you're ready to dive into some concrete strategies to use to build those strong relationships in the classroom.</i></p> <p><i>First, review the "Building Classroom Community" note taking document in your thought catcher. The document includes example community building goals, with space for you to write down strategies and implementation ideas for each goal. Add rows with your own goals as needed. Organizing your notes in this way allows you to evaluate strategies for value and effectiveness.</i></p> <p><i>With your group, read the two articles Why You Shouldn't "Build Community" and 6 Strategies for Building Better Student Relationships and add at least 2 strategies to your organizer. You can add more later.</i></p>
<p>Slide 17</p>	<p> FACILITATOR TALK</p> <p><i>Building healthy, respectful relationships with students is an effort that needs to stretch beyond the walls of your classroom. Whether it's sending parent emails with good news (not just bad behavior) or going to your students' soccer games or band concerts, engaging with parents and the broader school community can have an enormous impact on the interactions you have with students during class.</i></p>
<p>Slide 18</p>	<p> FEEDBACK FOCUS</p> <p>Lead participants through a discussion of their progress toward the session goals. Allow time for participants to ask questions and share their own ideas.</p> <p>Where Am I Now?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What questions do you have about building a positive classroom community? ● Did you find strategies to support building agreements and values, creating respectful environments, or developing communication plans?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What community building strategies/goals did you add to your organizer?
<p>Slide 19</p>	<p> FEEDBACK FOCUS</p> <p><i>Where to Next?</i></p> <p> TANGIBLE TAKEAWAY</p> <p><i>How can you implement one of the strategies you identified in your classroom community organizer?</i></p> <p><i>Write a plan for implementing your strategy. Share your plan with _____ (another teacher, department lead, facilitator, etc.) for feedback before you leave.</i></p>

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