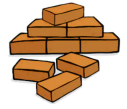


Foundation

“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” –Sir Isaac Newton



Kick Off: Culture Bricks

Objective: Students will represent themselves by designing six sides of a brick. Each side should represent some part of the students' culture that makes them who they are--and will ultimately form the foundation of our class culture.

Explanation: Everyone has a culture. Some people identify with their family's culture. Some people identify with hip-hop, art, dance, metal, and many other types of cultures. During this project we will learn more about our classmates' lives and discover the similarities & differences between us. All of our individual identities will help create the **foundation** that will allow us to build a successful classroom community with our own unique and beautiful culture. Let's see what we are able to build this year!!

Materials:

- Brick Cardstock cut-outs (foldable)
- Colored Pencils
- Tape
- Scissors

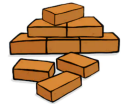
Procedure:

1. Students take time to brainstorm parts of their culture that form the foundation of who they are. They can write this out on provided brainstorm sheet. This will serve as a draft for their Culture Brick.

Prompts for students:

- Quotes you love
 - Favorite activities or passions
 - Story about something that shaped you
 - Role Models
 - Hopes/Dreams
 - Family Culture (where your family is from/where you grew up)
 - Religious/Spiritual/Philosophical Culture
 - Most Important Thing to You
 - Learning Philosophy
 - You as a Science Student
 - Something no one knows about you
 - The greatest risk you've ever taken
 - Other Ideas? Be creative!
2. When they feel ready they can begin coloring and adding to the brick cutout.
 3. When all sides have been completed, they will cut out and put together their brick.
 4. When all students have had time to finish (about 20 minutes), students will sit in a circle and prepare to share their creation with the class. They may not have to share every side of their brick, but at least 3 sides (they can roll their bricks to make this random if they want).
 5. When students share they will also be asked to answer the statement→ what they need from the class and what they can offer the class to help us build a strong foundation.
 6. Then they will add their brick to the class tower building at the center of the circle.
 7. Bricks will be stacked and displayed in the classroom throughout the cycle (students can choose which side of their brick to show).

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Kick Off: Culture Bricks

AOP:

- What did you learn about one of your classmates that you found interesting/exciting/cool?
- Why would we take an entire class period to learn about the individual cultures of each of the “bricks” that will make up our class?
- Why is building a strong community foundation important to our success this school year?
- What are some things we could do better next time we share in a community circle?