

Lesson Designs for Class Enrichment

Introductions with Three Objects

Bring three objects that can introduce you, and ask your students each to bring three objects that will be used to tell more about themselves. Do your own introduction and explain what objects you have selected, and tell why they are important to you. Then invite students who are first to bring their objects, picture of their objects, or simply verbal descriptions to do their introductions, until all have shared. Be prepared to have a safe place to save the items brought if they are particularly sentimental or valuable, so no one loses the objects during the school day.

Self Portraits

For a further idea for self-portraits, here is a lesson plan you can use if your students are not well acquainted enough to share with one another. You can have them create an introduction on a small paper bag, a 4-sided self-description with cut-outs of pictures and words they like, or use shoe boxes covered on the bottom, and separately on the top with butcher paper, to be covered with pictures and words they like. They can put more personal words or pictures on the insides of the bags or boxes, for things not to be shared, if a student would prefer. You can then take the bag or box and make an introduction based on the positive interpretations you make for what they have put on their bag or box. You can engage them in correcting or amplifying on what you are guessing, so they begin to participate in the process.

Habits of Mind

Possibilities include a monthly focus with a student-designed calendar; posters created by classroom groups for school room or lunchroom or hallway; student-made graphics based on graphics selected from *Habits of Mind* website; a literary analysis of a character, a movie character, or historical figure based on their prominent habits of mind; a self-analysis of one's own strengths; or a tribute to a person they know with key habits of mind.