

Creating Supportive Learning Environments



Hello!



Dr. Rosetta Treece

pronouns: She/her

*Director of Curriculum and
Instruction*

Hopewell Valley

Dr. Cindy Assini

pronouns: She/her

*Supervisor of Social Studies / Gifted
and Talented*

Hillsborough Township

Objectives



- Share examples of and resources for proactive ways to build a positive climate.
- Provide space for discussion.



Definitions



Explicit Bias

Beliefs at a conscious level, likely related to feeling threatened.

Implicit Bias

Thoughts and feelings of which people are unaware, including unconscious preferences or aversions.

(perception.org, 2017)

[Microaggressions](#)

1

Norms and Introductions



Norms

- We are all well intended professionals
- Be comfortable being uncomfortable
- Tell your truth
- This conversation is open-ended and may not come to resolution

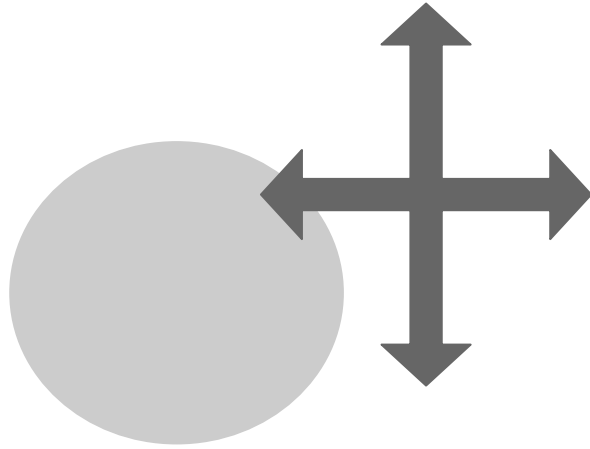
Write a quick reflection using one of the following prompts...

- I was given my name because . . .
- I like / I dislike my name because . . . I prefer to be called . . .
- My name is / isn't a good fit for my personality because . . .
- People assume _____ about me because of my name.

What's in a name?



- Turn and share about your name, pronouns, and any story related to your name.
- [Video](#), [Article](#), [Personal Pronouns](#), and [Pronunciation Site](#)



Circle and Plus Activity

2

Strategies that Support Voice and Collaboration



Current events in...

- Should current events be discussed in our classrooms?
- What are the challenges or concerns about teaching current events?

Let's get current for a moment...

'Two people killed in shooting near synagogue in Germany'

'Biden, for first time, calls for Trump to be impeached'

'Turkey says ground forces have invaded northern Syria;
multiple civilians reported dead'

Current Events

'Joker' uses a song by convicted pedophile Gary Glitter. He's probably making money off it'

What Is a Talking Circle?



“A Talking Circle, sometimes called a Peacemaking Circle, uses a structural framework to build relationships and to address conflict within a community. But Talking Circles serve other purposes as well: They create safe spaces, build connections and offer teachers a unique means of formative assessment.”



[Talking Circle: Teaching Tolerance](#)

For Sharing Experiences



- Formative assessment during collaboration
- Building relationships
- Group healing

Restorative Circle

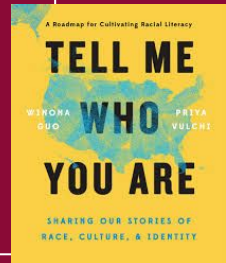


- First concert you attended...
- What are your thoughts about the “Joker” headline...? Offer one thought, reaction, or wonder.

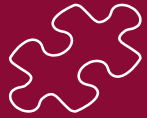
Resources



- Facing History Back-to-School Toolkit
- Teaching Tolerance Contract and Hard History Inquiries
- Facing History Current Events Checklist
- Pulitzer Center Lesson Ideas
- ADL Lesson Plans
- Educator Guide for *Tell Me Who You Are*



Connect, Extend, Challenge



- How are the ideas and information presented **CONNECTED** to what you knew?



- What **EXTENDED** your thinking?



- What is still **CHALLENGING** or puzzling you?

Thanks!



Dr. Rosetta Treece

@RoTreece

rosettatreece @ hvrsd.org

Dr. Cindy Assini

@cindyassini

cassini @ https.us

<https://tinyurl.com/sankofa19>