

## Making Connections with your students.

Describe how you might go about making real connections with your students. What are some activities (2-3) that you could incorporate into your classroom of children, young adults or adults so that you can build this trust with them for stronger student-teacher relationships?

In order to make real connections with my students, I would hand out questionnaires for students to fill out, so I could understand them better. In the technologies class, I learned to make a survey. I think this would be helpful to receive feedback from individual students about their personal needs. If I distribute a survey in the beginning of the school term, I can obtain suggestions and get to know students' backgrounds ahead of time. It's better to get an early evaluation, rather than wait a few weeks. In turn, I would provide feedback and communicate ways I would help cater to my students' individual needs.

Hosting an event in a classroom lesson would be a way to illicit a real connection. To break the monotony of lectures, I'd pause and integrate into the lesson an actual event where students can get one on one time with each other and myself. I would organize a field trip to a museum that relates to their culture. An alternative to field trips would be to host a lunch, dinner party, tea party, or mini-conference to get to know everyone. In the physical classroom, I'd set up the seating arrangements so that it's like a gala. People would eat and drink while I do a presentation and lesson. In this setting, I would emphasize my expectations on how to treat people and engage respectfully. That would be another step towards forming a stronger relationship with students.

A group activity would be games. Somebody told me that Kahoot is an effective teaching tool where students can play games virtually and learn. According to the description on the official website, "Kahoot! is a game-based learning platform that makes it easy to create, share, and play learning games or trivia quizzes in minutes. Unleash the fun in classrooms, offices, and living rooms!" Hosting a game segment could be fun and build teamwork.

Finally, I would leave communication wide open for students to reach out if they need something. Email would be the most appropriate. I'd keep a boundary and limit texting or social media apps for personal use only. Students would have to reach me on a platform that's designed for student-teacher relationships. I think having a teacher account on Instagram or Twitter would be good for me to post updates, but I'd have to figure out how to make it a closed group. Group chats can be annoying, so the best thing would be something like Canvas. Google Classroom might be something to explore further.