



Students create a class photo booth backdrop using words that represent being “AWESOME.”



One large sheet of butcher paper or any paper that can be used as a photo booth backdrop; Markers.

Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the second Monday of the month, please consider sharing or re-sharing the Monthly Kick-Off activity, and if appropriate, video at [www.everymondaymatters.org](http://www.everymondaymatters.org). Additionally, a three-minute recap of the previous weeks may add extra context to this week and help connect the dots around the monthly theme.

4 C's	SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING	SERVICE LEARNING
• Critical thinking	• Self-awareness	• Integrated learning
• Communication	• Self-management	• High quality service
• Collaboration	• Social-awareness	• Collaboration
• Creativity	• Relationship skills	• Student voice
	• Responsible decision-making	• Civic responsibility
		• Reflection
		• Evaluation

## GOALS FOR THE WEEK

- Discover just how amazing, “AWESOME,” and “SPECTACULAR” each of us really are
- Strengthen our relationships by showing others how special, great, and appreciated they are
- Find creative ways to be proud of who we are and help others do the same
- Understand how “OWN YOUR AWESOMENESS” is an important part of this month’s theme, “MONDAY GETS SPECTACULAR”



## STUDENT ACTIVITY: “#AWESOMEMATTERS”

### 1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: “#AWESOMEMATTERS”

### 2) ASK 1-3 QUESTIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW TO WARM STUDENTS UP ON THE ACTIVITY'S FOCUS:

**\*NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students' ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- What does it mean to be “AWESOME”?
- What does it mean to “OWN YOUR AWESOMENESS”?
  - Answer: To recognize and acknowledge just how amazing we are
- What are some qualities that you would describe as “AWESOME”?
- What are some words that you associate with “AWESOMENESS”?
- Do you think that everyone has to be “AWESOME” in the same exact way?
  - Why or why not?
  - Why might it be even more “AWESOME” if we are all different?
- Can you think of a time when someone told you that you are “AWESOME”?
  - How did this make you feel?
- Have you ever told someone else that they are “AWESOME”?
  - How do you think this made them feel?
- Do you believe that “OWNING YOUR AWESOMENESS” can spread joy and happiness around you with others?
- Do you believe that each person is “SPECTACULAR” in their own way?
- What would it be like to create something that helps remind others how “AWESOME” and “SPECTACULAR” they are?
  - Do you think this could have an impact on others and their lives?
  - Do you think this could show others how important it is to “OWN THEIR AWESOMENESS”?
- How might creating something that reminds others of their “AWESOMENESS” show them that they MATTER?
- How might “OWNING OUR AWESOMENESS” and “GETTING SPECTACULAR” more often help us create a more positive community and world?

### 3) SET UP THE “#AWESOMEMATTERS” ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
  - Today, we are going to start something that can spread “AWESOMENESS” to our community
  - Spreading the message that everyone is “AWESOME” is very important and can make a real impact on other people’s lives
  - It can help us create a happy, loving community and world where everyone knows that they MATTER
  - So today, we are going to help ourselves and others “OWN OUR AWESOMENESS,” one moment at a time
- **Ask:**
  - Have you ever seen a photo booth?
  - What is it like?
  - What are some things that you need to create a photo booth?
  - Can you think of some words that you associate with being “AWESOME”?

### 4) START PART ONE OF THE “#AWESOMEMATTERS” ACTIVITY:

- Set up one large piece of butcher paper (or whatever kind of paper you are using to create your photo booth backdrop) somewhere where all students can gather around it
- Have markers available for all students

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- **Explain:**

- A photo booth is a place where people can come and take pictures of themselves
- Photo booths often have fun backgrounds to make the photos exciting
- Today, we are going to create a photo booth backdrop together using words that we associate with being “AWESOME” or “SPECTACULAR”

- We are all going to create this together and by writing the words we come up with using markers

- **Ask students to share aloud words that they associate with being “AWESOME”**

- Remind students that they may all think of different things when thinking of “AWESOME” and that is what makes this activity beautiful. Having a diverse group of words will reach many different people who can relate to the different words they come up with since everyone is “AWESOME” in different, unique ways

- **When a student shares out a word, make sure everyone agrees that word represents “AWESOMENESS” and have the student who shared it write the word on the backdrop paper**

- **If possible, include the phrase and hashtag “#AWESOMEMATTERS” on the backdrop**

- **Spend up to 10 minutes creating the “#AWESOMEMATTERS” backdrop**

- **Then, when finished, decide as a class where to hang the photo booth backdrop, either in the classroom or outside of it, as a daily reminder of “AWESOMENESS”**

- **Spread “AWESOMENESS” by encouraging students and other people to take photos in the booth and with the background and post them to social media with the hashtag “#AWESOMEMATTERS”**

**5) AFTER THE ACTIVITY, ASK 1-3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS REFLECT ON WHAT THEY’VE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW THEY CAN TAKE THIS FORWARD:**

**\*NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- How did you enjoy this “OWN YOUR AWESOMENESS” activity?
- Was it easy or difficult to think of “AWESOME” words?
- Which of the words on the backdrop do you associate with yourself the most?
- Were there any words that represent “AWESOMENESS” that were new to you?
- Are there any words on the backdrop that you would like to start feeling about yourself that you don’t already?
- Why is it important for everyone to feel they are “AWESOME” in their own ways?
- How can this “#AWESOMEMATTERS” photo booth backdrop help people remember that they are “AWESOME”?
- Can you think of some other ways you can “OWN YOUR AWESOMENESS” and encourage others do the same?
- How did this activity encourage you to “OWN YOUR AWESOMENESS” each day?
- How will you remember that you are “AWESOME” and “SPECTACULAR” going forward?
- How will you show others that they are “AWESOME” and “SPECTACULAR” going forward?
- What would the world be like if we all “GOT SPECTACULAR” and “OWNED OUR AWESOMENESS” more often?
- What would the world be like if we shared with others how “AWESOME” we think that they are?
- How would this show others that they MATTER?

**6) THANK STUDENTS FOR TAKING “AWESOME” ACTION TODAY AND FOR CREATING AN ACTIVITY THAT HELPS OTHERS KNOW HOW MUCH THEY “MATTER.”**

- 7) **ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE PHOTOS IN THE “#AWESOMEMATTERS” PHOTO BOOTH AND TO SHARE THEIR PHOTOS WITH OTHERS AS A WAY TO “OWN THEIR AWESOMENESS.” CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO GET OTHERS TO TAKE PHOTOS IN THE PHOTO BOOTH AND POST ABOUT WHY THEY “MATTER” AND HOW THEY ARE “SPECTACULAR” AND “AWESOME,” SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF “AWESOMENESS” THROUGH THE PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY.**
- 8) **CONTINUE EXPLORING HOW “AWESOMENESS” “MATTERS” BY LEADING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.**



## **EXTENSION IDEAS:**

**DO ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTENSION IDEAS TO BRING THE LESSON FROM 15 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES OR MORE.**

- 1) **It's Photo Time:** Have each student in the class pose in front of the backdrop that you created and take their photo. They can point to their favorite “AWESOME” word or you can create a little sign that says “#AWESOMEMATTERS” for them to hold up. Once photos are taken, and permission is given from parents and students to post, create a hashtag called “#AWESOMEMATTERS” and post with each photo so students can see a collection of their “AWESOMENESS.”
- 2) **Spread #AWESOMEMATTERS:** Invite students from other classes to take part in the “#AWESOMEMATTERS” photo booth and post photos with student and parent permission. Encourage students to post “#AWESOMEMATTERS” photos—both in front of the photo booth backdrop and elsewhere—with that hashtag. As a class, check in periodically to see what photos have been posted with that hashtag, from their own class but from others, as well.
- 3) **Go Bigger:** Create an “#AWESOMEMATTERS” wall on campus where you can post photos taken in front of your photo booth on that wall. Encourage students to share something “AWESOME” about themselves next to their photo, or something that they find “AWESOME” in the world.
- 4) **#AWESOMEMATTERS in the World:** Work with students to create little #AWESOMEMATTERS tags or signs. Then, go out into the community and ask people to take photos with the tag or sign and share what is “AWESOME” about themselves. With their permission, post the photo with the “#AWESOMEMATTERS” sign and a mini story of this person, similar to Humans of New York ([www.instagram.com/humansofny](http://www.instagram.com/humansofny)).

**“ IMPERFECTION IS BEAUTY, MADNESS IS GENIUS AND IT’S BETTER TO BE ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS THAN ABSOLUTELY BORING. ”**

- MARILYN MONROE