



In this small group activity, students create a “BRDIGE” of similarities, common ground, or shared goals between ten seemingly opposing groups.



Paper or chart paper for each group of 3-5 students; Pens or markers.
Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the last Monday of the month, please consider sharing or re-sharing the Monthly Kick-Off activity, and if appropriate, video at 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 personal beliefs that “BUILD” walls and replace them with new beliefs that embrace empathy, love, connection, and a sense of global community
- Identify how to bring more people into our inner circles to grow our sense of comfort, belonging, and family
- Practice looking for similarities, common ground, and shared goals between seemingly different people
- Understand how “BUILDING BRIDGES” is an important part of this month’s theme, “MONDAY GETS UNDERSTANDING”



STUDENT ACTIVITY: **“ONE BRIDGE”**

- 1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: “ONE BRIDGE”**
- 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 are some commonalities between all people and all groups of people?**
- **Do you believe that all communities, nations, and people are part of one human race or one global nation?**
 - Why or why not?
- **What shared goals, wants, values, or priorities does every person share, no matter how different they seem?**
- **How can focusing on shared goals, wants, values, or priorities help “BUILD BRIDGES” between people who are seemingly very different?**
 - How can it “BUILD BRIDGES” between people who might be in conflict with each other or directly opposed to each other?
- **Do you think it is possible to find at least “ONE BRIDGE,” such as a shared goal, want, value, or priority, between two people or groups that are different from each other or oppose each other?**
 - What are some examples of this happening?
- **Have you ever found “ONE BRIDGE” or something in common with someone who seemed very different from you?**
 - What was that like?
- **How can you focus on the “ONE BRIDGE,” or a shared goal, want, value, or priority, to resolve or move past differences or conflicts?**
- **Do you think you might need to “GET UNDERSTANDING” to find or “BUILD” a “BRIDGE” with someone else?**
- **How might finding just “ONE BRIDGE” help you “BUILD BRIDGES” with others?**
- **How can finding just “ONE BRIDGE” connect you to how much YOU MATTER?**
 - How might finding just “ONE BRIDGE” help you remember how much others MATTER, too?

3) SET UP THE “ONE BRIDGE” ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
 - It’s not unusual to have people or groups that seem to have a conflict, or oppose each other
 - But most of these people and groups have something in common, whether it be a goal, want, value, or priority
 - When we discover what those shared commonalities are, we can start “BUILDING BRIDGES” to people who seem different
 - And, we can start recognizing that maybe we’re not so different after all
- **Ask:**
 - Have you ever felt really different from someone else, only to realize you had something in common with the other person after all?
 - Do you believe people and groups have more things in common than different? Why or why not?
- **Explain:**
 - Today, you will work in teams to create just “ONE BRIDGE” between groups that are seemingly different or opposing each other

4) START THE “ONE BRIDGE” ACTIVITY:

- **Divide students into groups of 3-5 students**
- **Distribute paper or chart paper and pens or markers to each group**

- **Ask students to create 3 columns on their paper and 10 numbered rows**
- **Explain:**
 - In a moment, you will list 10 examples of two groups that seem to have conflict, differences, or who oppose each other, one example of each in the first and third columns
 - For example, you might write two examples of seemingly opposing religious groups, political parties, sports rivals, social cliques, languages, cultures, appearances, or styles—one in each column
 - Then, in the center column between your two opposing groups, you will list “ONE BRIDGE” (a shared goal, want, value, or priority) that both of these seemingly opposing groups share or have in common
 - For example, you might include the desire for love, respect, power, joy, peace, hope, community, or belonging
 - As we do this, we will start to see that all of the seemingly opposing groups can be joined as “ONE” by their similarities or shared goals
- **Make sure students understand the instructions and ask them to begin writing their 10 examples of groups who seemingly oppose each other**
- **After they have listed their 10 examples, have them begin on their “BRIDGES”**
- **Circulate while students are working and support them as helpful and necessary**
- **Allow up to 10 minutes for students to create their 10 examples and their “BRIDGES” between them**
- **When time is up, ask for volunteers to share out their groups and the “BRIDGES” they created between them**
- **Tell students that they now have 10 examples of “BRIDGES” and common ground, and they also have one “BRIDGE” (down the middle) that is 10 “bricks” long and 3 “bricks” wide**
 - Remind students that people are more similar than they are different, and remembering that we have common desires and goals with others can help us unite and “BUILD BRIDGES” with others
 - Share with them also that we are made stronger by our differences and we can find strength in learning from and respecting others’ differences
- **Hang the “ONE BRIDGE” papers in the classroom so students can be reminded that it’s possible to “BUILD BRIDGES” between people of all identities, backgrounds, and beliefs**

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.*

- **What was it like to think of some groups that are seemingly opposed to each other, or who have conflicts with each other?**
- **Were you able to find a “BRIDGE” between each set of opposing groups?**
- **Was it challenging to think of the “BRIDGES” between the groups?**
 - Why or why not?
- **When was the last time you found “ONE BRIDGE” between you and someone else in your life?**
- **Do you think it’s possible to find “BRIDGES” between any two people?**
 - Why or why not?
- **Are people more similar or are they more different?**
- **Why is it important to find the similarities between people, or to “BUILD BRIDGES” between them?**
- **How can “BUILDING BRIDGES” help us “GET UNDERSTANDING” about others who might be different than us?**
- **How can “BUILDING BRIDGES” and “GETTING UNDERSTANDING” build a world where everyone knows that they MATTER?**

6) THANK STUDENTS FOR IDENTIFYING AND “BUILDING BRIDGES” TODAY BETWEEN GROUPS THAT ARE SEEMINGLY DIFFERENT OR OPPOSING. REMIND STUDENTS THAT WHEN OTHERS ARE DIFFERENT THAN US, IT’S LIKELY THAT WE CAN FIND SOME SIMILARITY OR MEET HALFWAY WITH THE OTHER PERSON OR GROUP, AND IT’S UP TO US TO “BUILD” THAT “BRIDGE.”

- 7) **CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO “BUILD BRIDGES” IN ALL PARTS OF THEIR LIVES AND EVEN WITH PEOPLE WHO SEEM VERY DIFFERENT THAN THEM. REMIND THEM THAT “BUILDING BRIDGES” SHOWS OTHERS THAT THEY “MATTER” AND “BUILDS” A MORE INCLUSIVE, WELCOMING, AND “UNDERSTANDING” WORLD.**
- 8) **CONTINUE EXPLORING HOW TO “BUILD BRIDGES” 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) **Crafty Bridge Decor:** Have students decorate the papers they made so they feel excited and proud to display them in class.
- 2) **Yarn Toss:** Have students take turns holding a ball of yarn as they state one difference or issue that divides people. Then, have them toss the ball of yarn to the first peer who states one similarity, shared want, or common goal of the two opposing groups. This student will then state another difference or divisive issue that divides people, and will toss the ball of yarn to the first peer who states one similarity, shared want, or common goal of the two opposing groups. The game will continue into all students are connected with every student holding at least one section of the ball of yarn. Discuss together what it's like to realize that even though people are different and hold different beliefs, they are still connected through similarities, wants, and common goals.
- 3) **Construct a Bridge:** Have students work in small groups to “BUILD” a “BRIDGE” with popsicle sticks, tape, pencils, or other household or classroom items labeled with their “BRIDGE BUILDING” ideas from the original activity. As an optional second part of this activity, students can label objects as obstacles to maintaining “BRIDGES” (disrespect, ego, violence, etc.) that they place on their constructed “BRIDGE” to see and discuss how much it can literally and figuratively withstand before collapsing.

“ COULD IT BE TRUE THAT THE PERSON WHO HAS HURT YOU... HURT YOU IN SEARCH OF THE THINGS THAT YOU SEEK FOR YOURSELF? ”

- STEPHANIE KILLEN