



In this group activity, students will choose to perform their favorite love song or write their own rap or song to perform.



Paper and pencils, (optional) device to play background music or display lyrics.
Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the fourth Monday of the month, please consider sharing or re-sharing highlights from the Monthly Kick-Off, and if appropriate, monthly video.

Special Note: Consider starting class with the “Picture Book Discussion” from the “Extension” section of this lesson.

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** how your ideas and expectations about LOVE are shaped by the media and how you can create healthier definitions of LOVE.
- **ENGAGE** with peers to perform songs that celebrate and foster LOVE.
- **UNDERSTAND** that telling someone what makes them unique is an invaluable way to make them feel valued and loved.



STUDENT ACTIVITY: **LOVE SONG**

1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: LOVE SONG

2) CONSIDER ASKING 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 examples of LOVE SONGS and raps that share a positive message about LOVE?**
- **What are some examples of LOVE SONGS and raps that share a negative message about LOVE?**
- **What details do these positive and negative LOVE SONGS have in common?**
 - What common details or elements are included in all LOVE SONGS?
- **Why do you think so many songs are about LOVE?**
- **Why do you think music is a universal part of CELEBRATIONS?**
- **If you could write a SONG or rap that CELEBRATES LOVE what would you include?**

3) SET UP THE "LOVE SONG" ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
 - The concept of expressing LOVE in a song or poem has been around for millennia.
 - The oldest love poem was written over 4,000 years ago.
 - It was called the "Love Song for Shu-Sin."
 - The majority of songs we hear revolve around the topic of LOVE or relationships.
 - Even though, we like these songs and sing along to them, sometimes the lyrics are a bit unrealistic and create unhealthy messages people start to believe.
- **Ask:**
 - What can you do to listen to these songs with a healthier mindset?
 - How do you think these songs affect how we understand CELEBRATE LOVE and that YOU MATTER?

4) START THE "LOVE SONG" ACTIVITY:

- **Explain:**
 - Today, you will join a group to either perform one of your favorite LOVE SONGS or raps or write your own LOVE SONG or rap.
 - This activity is meant to be a silly CELEBRATION of LOVE, so remember to not take yourself too seriously and just have fun working with your peers.
- **Begin activity.**
- **Divide students into groups.**
- **Distribute paper and pencils to each group.**
- **Allow time for students to choose and practice performing their favorite LOVE SONG or rap, or to write and practice performing their own LOVE SONG or rap.**
 - Encourage students to not take themselves too seriously and to have fun.
- **When time is up, ask for volunteers to share their songs.**
- **OPTIONAL: Play background music or display lyrics as each group performs.**
- **Prepare for reflection.**

5) AFTER THE ACTIVITY, CONSIDER ASKING 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 feel while planning and performing your LOVE SONG?
- How did you feel while watching your classmate's performance?
- Did this activity feel like a fun and joyful CELEBRATION? Why or why not?
- What are some other ways you can CELEBRATE LOVE in fun, silly and joyful ways?
- How does CELEBRATING LOVE in fun, joyful silly ways connect all of you to how much WE MATTER?
- Why is it important to proactively find ways to CELEBRATE LOVE?

6) THANK STUDENTS FOR SHARING THEIR "LOVE SONG" IDEAS AND REFLECTIONS. Remind students that when we think about the absolute best times in our lives, we were most likely surrounded by joyful love. When we think about the worst times in our lives, there is a good chance that we were also surrounded by love. Although potentially a little less joyful, this kind of love might have been supportive and filled with hope.

7) CHECK IN WITH STUDENTS HOW THEY HAVE APPLIED THEIR "LOVE SONG" IDEAS AND REFLECTIONS OUTSIDE OF CLASS. CHALLENGE STUDENTS TO CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE AND CREATE LOVE THROUGH MUSIC. For it is love that brings so much joy and light to our lives and to the world. Celebrating love matters.

8) CONSIDER CONTINUING TO EXPLORE "CELEBRATE LOVE" BY LEADING ONE OR MORE OF THE 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) **Picture Book Discussion:** Read or watch the read along video of the book, [I Am Enough](https://bit.ly/2SDvKOM) by Grace Byers <https://bit.ly/2SDvKOM> and discuss what it can teach them about truly loving themselves in order to build a healthy relationship with themselves and others.
- 2) **Song Writing:** Students will work independently to write a song, rap or poem that celebrates healthy versions of love for themselves, family, friends, or romantic relationships.
- 3) **Song Analysis:** Students will choose one love song, rap or poem and analyze the meaning of literary devices (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, symbolism) and how they enhance the message or theme of the text.
- 4) **Social Studies Connection:** Students will research and write about the history behind one love song to learn about the artist's life and song inspiration, including if their song is based on actual events and individuals from their life.

“**AT THE TOUCH OF LOVE,
EVERYONE BECOMES A POET.**”

- PLATO, ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER AND FOUNDER OF THE
FIRST INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE WESTERN WORLD
(CIRCA 428 - 348 BC)