



Strategy Tool: Using Journals to Build Authentic Relationships

Journaling in my Classroom - Example

Write some of your ideas for journaling activities:

Ideas for journaling activities (e.g., Write about a time you felt grateful)
Where is one place in the world you would like to go? Why?
What animal best represents your personality? Why?
If you met an alien, what would be the first thing you would ask them? What would you tell them about yourself?

Then, create a plan for using journals with students in your classroom.

What journal activity will I use?
“What animal best represents your personality?” I will start by asking the class to name animals they know. Then, I will ask them what types of characteristics or personality traits those animals are known to have. For instance, an owl is thought to be wise, a turtle slow but steady, a beaver is a hard worker, etc. Then, I will pose the writing prompt. I will give them 10 minutes to write.

How often will the students journal?
Students will journal for 10 minutes after lunch period every Friday.

When will I read all of my students' journals?
Journals will be collected at the end of the day on Fridays. I will read the journals over the weekend or by Monday afternoon at the latest.

When and how will I meet with my students to discuss their journals?
While students are working on independent work during the writing block throughout the week, I will call up one student at a time to discuss their journal. I will meet with 5-6 students each day.