



Connections and Rapport

Use these strategies to build rapport and establish connections that are meaningful and authentic.

1, 2, 3

Investing time in getting to know your students outside of who they are academically is essential. Ask 1 question, during a 2 minute conference, to 3 students every day. The idea is that your time focusing on each student will be met with purpose and a focus.

S.L.O.W. It Down

Get students to slow down and evaluate their work. First, have them Self-assess their assignment. Next, have them Locate areas of improvement. Then, have them Organize their new learning into their piece. Finally, have them ask, "Why?". Why were these improvements needed?

Handshakes, Hugs, and High Fives

Connecting with students as soon as they enter the classroom can make their whole day. Greet students at the door every morning with a hug, handshake, or high five. As you get to know your students better, get creative with it: develop handshakes or "hellos" that are unique to each student!

Hallway Conversations

Instead of having "check-in" conversations with students in the physical confines of the classroom, surrounded by the listening ears of their peers, take time on a weekly basis to pull each student out into the hall and chat about anything that is on their mind.

Positive Post-Its

Validating the work our students are doing is essential to building connections and rapport. Write a simple message of praise on a post-it note and place it inside your student's desk or locker. Make it thoughtful and specific like, "I notice how much you have improved in memorizing your multiplication facts." or, "I appreciate the way you handled yourself when (friend) made you upset."

To see a Connections and Rapport strategy in action, check out this Blue Apple project:

State of Sustainability

Every state is uniquely great. From coastlines to mountains to rolling prairies, our landscape is diverse. In this project, students will become aware of the need for a sustainable world by focusing directly on their own state's sustainability. They will use their creativity to design a book about their state that informs readers how small changes can develop a more sustainable world. Finally, they'll publish their book and sell it for a charitable cause.



To explore this project and others, visit BlueAppleTeacher.org