



Aspirations Story Squares

(ABOUT 50 MINUTES)

Belonging:

Feeling like you are part of a group while knowing you are special for who you are.

Objective:

Students will build meaningful relationships with their peers through structured personal conversations.

Steps:

- Provide each student with a graphic organizer.
- Have students form a circle.
- Instruct students to draw or write in each section based on the following questions listed on the graphic organizer:
 - Draw or write about something that makes you special or unique.
 - Draw a picture or write the name of someone who is there for you when you need them.
 - Draw a picture of something you are proud of other than your grades.
 - Draw a picture or briefly describe how you learn best.
 - Write down a question that you would like to know the answer to.
 - Write down something you would like to try, but you are not sure if you will be good at it.
 - Draw a picture of yourself as a leader.
 - Write down something you would like to do in the future and how you could start achieving this goal today.
- Assign each person a partner and have each share his or her Aspirations Story Squares for one minute.
 - Pair students into boy/girl partners.
 - Ask the students to focus on listening to each other.
- Next, have students select a new partner and share for one minute each.
- After they have shared with a second partner, have everyone return into to the circle as a whole group.
- Ask each person to share one item from another student's Aspirations Story Squares that they found interesting.
- Invite students to pick a square to develop into a narrative.

Personal Reflection:

Have students pick one of the topics from their Aspirations Story Squares to develop into a narrative. Tell them to be sure to engage the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple points of view, and introducing a narrator and characters. Be sure to create a smooth progression of experiences or events. Advise them to use narrative techniques such as dialogue, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines. Have them use precise words to tell details. Recommend that they have a conclusion that reflects on what was experienced in the narrative.

Group Reflection:

- What did you learn about your classmates? How did they make their story meaningful to you?
- How does knowing your classmates' stories benefit our class as a whole?
- Why is it important to interact with all different types of students?
- Why is it important for your teachers to know you as an individual? How could this help you be successful?
- What was it like to share your story squares? What details are necessary to explain to someone when creating a narrative?
- What will help orient or engage your audience to your narrative?

Extended Learning:

Using a smartphone or tablet, students can create their Aspirations Squares using a photo collage app like Pic Stitch. Have students select an eight-frame template or make two, four-frame templates. Students can use their own personal photographs or images from the Web or photo gallery.

Students can record their narratives and create a podcast using Apple's Podcasts app, Insta-Cast4, Downcast, GarageBand or podcast tool of your choice.

Notes:

Name _____

1. Draw or write something that makes you special or unique.	2. Draw a picture or write the name of someone who is there for you when you need them.
3. Draw a picture of an accomplishment you are proud of other than your grades.	4. Draw a picture or briefly describe how you learn best.
5. Write down a question you would like to know the answer to or a topic you are curious about.	6. Write down something you would like to try, but you are not sure if you will be good at it.
7. Draw a picture of when you have been a leader.	8. Write down something you would like to do in the future and how you could start achieving this goal today.