



What About the Rest of the Alphabet

Sense of Accomplishment:

Sense of Accomplishment is about recognizing all kinds of accomplishments. In schools, students who earn As and Bs on their report cards are honored academically and students who wear letters on their jackets are recognized for their athletic accomplishments. Without taking anything away from those successes, how can we expand on what we celebrate and reward at school?

Objective:

Students will be able to identify ways to rate and reward accomplishments other than academic and athletic success. Students will be able to think critically about how to broaden what we value in schools.

Materials:

Papers, pens, and pencils; Google document (optional).

Steps:

- Use these questions to begin this activity:
 - o What things do we celebrate and recognize as accomplishments in our school?
 - o What is one thing you would like to achieve this school year?
- Ask your students to consider accomplishments they have attained that are not athletic or academic.
- Encourage students to think of all sorts of accomplishments, such as making a new friend, getting a job, or passing a driving test.
- Post students' accomplishments on the board. Have students write their accomplishments on a Google document or have students take turns writing down their accomplishments on a whiteboard.
- In pairs, have students pick four different accomplishments from the board. Have students create a new grading scale for each of the four accomplishments. The grading scale must use four consecutive letters of the alphabet to rate achievements. For example, for passing a driving test the scale might be G = Great driver, H = Hide if you see me coming, I = Stay indoors if I am on the road, J = Jail.
- Encourage students to create a visual aid that contains the grading scale with a picture using Red Stamp app, PicCollage, or another app. Have students share their clever grading systems.

Personal Reflection:

What accomplishments should receive greater recognition in school? What impact would this have on students? Write a persuasive essay.

Group Reflection:

- Why do schools limit themselves to recognizing mostly academic and athletic accomplishments?
- How can we celebrate the items on the board for the remainder of the year?

Extended Learning:

In the group reflection, students discussed how to celebrate the items on the board for the remainder of the year. Based on the discussion, partner with students to design and implement a new student recognition system.

Here are some examples:

- Create a Twitter account that mentions students for their hard work and being good citizens.
- Create a Hall of Fame board where students can post their accomplishments, hang artwork and assignments they are proud of.
- Award students tickets for participation. Tickets can be redeemed for a homework pass or another incentive.
- Create a Class Dojo system. Show students' videos on Class Dojo at teach2.classdojo.com/#!/launchpad. Use this tool that tracks students' accomplishments like participation, helping others, persistence, teamwork, helping others and staying on task. Teacher will grant students dojo points. At the end of the day, students will find out how they have done and what they can improve. Students all get to create their own avatar too!