

Today's Challenges; Today's Leaders:

REAL WORLD CONVERSATIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Lesson Number: **TCTL.4.5**

Breaking Down Barriers

Quick Reference:

Time Required:

60 minutes

Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Describe characteristics that make them unique.
2. Recognize that social barriers exist.

Materials:

- ✓ Classroom space to group students
- ✓ Paper
- ✓ Writing utensils

Purpose:

The purpose of this lesson is to change perceptions and break down social barriers.

Directions:

The bulleted information below is important background information.

- Perception – translating initial impressions into a total view of a person.
- Social barrier – misconceptions of others that prevent open conversation and cooperation among people with different backgrounds.
- Perceptions and social barriers can prevent people from working together as a team

After reviewing the information above, begin with the lesson activities below.

1. Discuss how there are many similarities among the class members but even more differences among them.
2. Have students provide examples of the similarities among them.
 - a. Answers may include grades in school, teachers, ages, etc.
3. Explain that within their class there are many similarities; however, there are also characteristics that make the class members unique. Identify some of their unique qualities.
4. Transition into the activity by telling the students that they will begin examining some of the traits they have in common with only a few of their classmates.



5. Divide the class by birth order and have the students assemble into their respective groups: oldest, middle and youngest. Have groups answer the following questions:
 - a. Generally, what traits do your group members have in common because of the birth order?
 - b. How might birth order make you different or unique from others?
6. Divide the class by the number of siblings. Have groups answer the following questions:
 - a. What are the traits your group members have in common due to this?
 - b. How might the number of siblings you have make you unique from those who are different from you?
7. Divide the class by the highest desired level of education. Have groups answer the following questions:
 - a. Are there similarities among your group members based on this trait?
 - b. How might this make you unique from those who are different from you?
8. Explain that developing an appreciation for others' characteristics will help break down social barriers.
9. Have students think about the group members they were standing with when asked to group by birth order. Ask the following questions:
 - a. Would this trait alone make you just like those around you?
 - b. Within this group, were there differences in people?
10. Explain that having one trait in common is not grounds to generalize about all people who possess that trait. There are just as many differences in people within this group as there are in the class and getting to know people is crucial
11. Discuss that the appreciation of diversity around us is very important to success in life. The differences in plants, animals and people make the world exciting. Like most of life's lessons, it is easier if these lessons are learned at a young age.
12. Brainstorm with students nursery rhymes they remember from childhood. Make a list on the board for them to reference. Use the Mother Goose e-Moment®.
13. Allow students to work individually or in small groups to create or adapt a nursery rhyme to represent the concepts discussed in this lesson and/or unit. Have students share their work.

Connection Questions:

1. Describe a time when you were categorized by a single trait. How did it make you feel?
2. When meeting a new person, how could you truly get to know this person instead of making generalizations?
3. Social barriers prevent us from performing at our highest level. Describe how you can overcome a social barrier in your life.

LifeKnowledge Connections

Precept(s) addressed:

A. Action

A7. Invest in others by enabling and empowering them

LK Lesson Suggestion:



MS.36 – Understanding ways people are different