



InspiredTeaching

22-23 Inspired Teaching Institutes:
USING IMPROV TO GROW RESILIENCE

21 Ways to End School Days



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Get [#Inspired2Learn!](https://bit.ly/3xlmtsd)

Please **click on the activity names** throughout this guide, visit <https://bit.ly/3xlmtsd>, or **scan the above QR** code to visit the #Inspired2Learn site. It is filled with full, detailed explanations of each activity, examples, applicable Common Core Standards, and even more resources to help you become an Inspired Teacher!

5 Closing Activities to Reinforce Learning



The end of class can feel chaotic, but having students reflect on their learning and apply that knowledge in new ways is critical to getting information to stick.

FEATURED ACTIVITY: One Belief Strengthened, One Belief Changed

1.

Ask students, “As you reflect on what we discussed today, think about one belief you came into class with that has been strengthened and one that has changed—or that you’re reconsidering.” Students respond when they feel moved to do so or go in order around the room. Consider sharing your own views too.

Click on the activity title to be taken to the detailed explanation on the [#Inspired2Learn](#) site.

2.

Hands and Feet Stories

One way we can demonstrate our understanding of what we hear is by sharing back what was said. This activity challenges listeners to share back what they hear without words and provides the speakers with a unique glimpse into how what they said was received.

3.

Zoom Out

This activity allows students to see themselves in relation to things beyond them (i.e. their family, community, town, state, etc.) and apply their learning to a larger context.

4.

Graffiti Board

Post a content-related question or prompt in the middle of a large sheet of paper, and have students write responses, then respond to each others’ writing. This form of “discussion” can be particularly helpful for students who may be less likely to speak up in front of the whole class.

5.

The Answer is 4

This activity involves you providing an answer, and your students coming up with as many questions as possible for which the answer is correct. For example, Prompt: The answer is 4. Possible Questions: How many legs does a cat have? How many musicians are in a quartet? What’s 74 minus 70?



5 Closing Activities to Receive Lesson Feedback

With the fun activities below, you can gauge how well a lesson went during the final minutes of class. The information you receive can help you change course tomorrow if things aren't sinking in.



FEATURED ACTIVITY: Share One Word

1.

If you have just a few minutes before the bell, simply ask students to share one word that represents their learning. Take note of the words students share, and where you see a lot of overlap. Their responses will help you identify overall trends and offer insights into the way they learn.

Click on the activity title to be taken to the detailed explanation on the [#Inspired2Learn](#) site.

2.

Reflective Beach Ball

Use this activity to add a little movement to the close of class. On an inflatable beach ball, use a wet-erase marker to write different questions or prompts in each ball segment. Assemble students in a circle and toss the ball to one of them. After they answer the prompt/question under their right pointer finger, they should toss the ball to another student until everyone has had a turn.

3.

3-2-1 Feedback

This is essentially an “exit ticket,” students write and give you as they leave the room. The core structure can be tweaked in different ways depending on your goal: 3 things you learned in class today; 2 things you want to learn more about based on what you learned; 1 question you have about today’s lesson. For more examples of ways you can adapt this activity, visit, [#Inspired2Learn](#).

4.

Word at a Time Poems

Similar to “Share One Word,” Word-at-a-Time Poems invite students to share their insights one word at a time. Write down the words each student speaks, and read the poem back to the class. This is a beautiful way to showcase students as experts as you put their own words front and center.

5.

More Creative Ways to Gather Insights

Classic “exit tickets” can be a waste of paper and time, but [this list from Ditch That Textbook](#) offers several technology-based strategies that can give you a snapshot of learning without taking too much time.

8 Closing Activities to Build Classroom Community



The last few minutes of class can be a great time to deepen relationships. Some of these activities require advanced planning, but most can be done with few materials and in the spur of the moment.

Click on the activity title to be taken to the detailed explanation on the [#Inspired2Learn site](#).

1. Finding Smiles

In this activity, each student is paired with someone they will secretly observe, noticing and remembering what this classmate does that makes the observing student smile. The observation can last anywhere from a class period to a few days. At the close, students share what they observed with one another.

2. Sing!

There are a number of reasons why singing is important. Inspired Teaching President and Founder, Aleta Margolis, shares some of them in "[Why We Sing](#)". You can sing anything with your classes, and have students bring their own songs too!

3. Counting Up

In this challenging game, the class sits in a circle with the goal of starting at number 1 and counting as high as possible with only one person speaking at a time. If two people speak simultaneously, the group must start over. This often takes many tries before the group is able to effectively make it work. It would be good to try multiple days in a row to demonstrate growth.

4. Chills and Thrills

A "chill" is something that didn't go well or is troubling you. A "thrill" is something that went well and brings you joy. You could frame these to get feedback on a lesson or how the class is feeling. Check out the [#Inspired2Learn site](#) for examples.

5.

Setting Intentions

After a full day of school or a class period, a nice way to reflect on learning and look ahead is to have students set intentions for the next class period. (You may need to spend time talking with students about what an intention is.) They can do this in a notebook or share their thoughts verbally with a partner or the class as a whole. Find variations based on grade levels K-12 [here](#).

6.

Take a Quiet Breath

A truly simple but effective way to end class can be with silence and some deep breaths. Introduce this practice by explaining to students that our minds need time and space to process learning and taking a moment to just breathe in silence and be with our thoughts makes that possible. Students will get better at this with practice and may even come to look forward to that last quiet moment of the day.

7.

Bring Something to Share

A favorite elementary school activity is bringing things from home to share, but this is fun no matter what grade you are in. The opportunity to share something of who you are with your classmates can be an important way to build community. Sharing can be random or tied to a particular goal. If everyone brings something in, you can have them share in small groups or have a few students share each day for a couple of days.

Featured Community-Building Closer

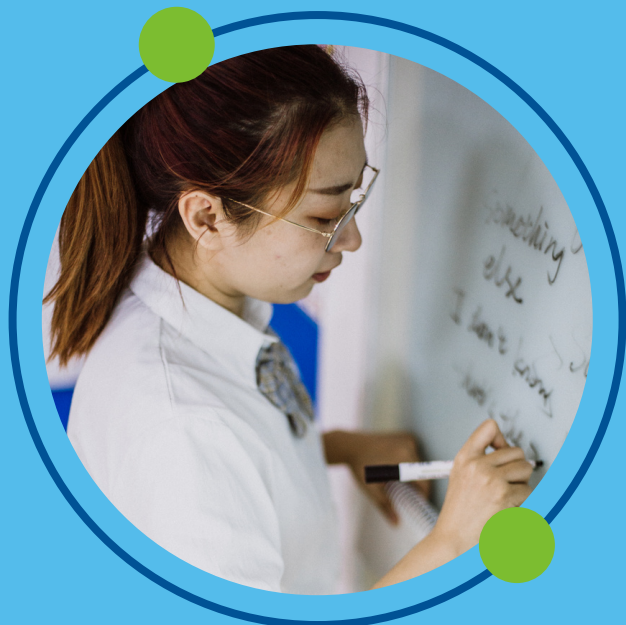
8.

Shout Outs

According to Merriam Webster, a “shout out” is “a public expression of greeting, praise, or acknowledgement directed toward a person or group.” In your classroom shout outs are an opportunity for students to acknowledge one another. You can invite shout outs with a simple statement like, “As we close class today, does anyone have a shout out for something a classmate did/said that deepened your learning or made you feel supported in today’s class?” It can sometimes help to model with your own.



3 Closing Activities to Connect with Families and the School Community



Newsletters home to families do well to document what transpires in school, but don't often foster engagement. The below activities invite a back-and-forth dynamic, and come from the voices of students more than the teacher.

Click on the activity title to be taken to the detailed explanation on the [#Inspired2Learn](#) site.

1.

You've Got Mail

Letter writing may feel old fashioned but it offers a great way to practice retelling and synthesizing information into something succinct that gets a message across. Have students write letters to their families about what they've learned in class during the day. Invite families to write back!

2.

Scribe's Record

As a whole class, ask students to select 3 things they've learned that they want to remember at the end of a week. Write these down and share them with families. You'll strengthen students' skills of analysis and synthesis, and get consistent feedback on what they value, enjoy, ponder, and recall about each day's class activities.

3.

Share Questions with Families

Consider asking students what questions they want to discuss with their families at the close of class. Depending on the age, you can task them with asking the questions and bringing back answers.

InspiredTeaching

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November Institute:

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Explore how you can foster the social and emotional need for Mutual Respect in your classroom.

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IN PERSON

SATURDAY, NOV. 5 | 11:30AM - 1:30PM
(NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY)

Register at

<https://bit.ly/3SiwkNa>