

Closure Activities

Closure activities at the end of the day or the end of each class can offer students opportunities to:

1. Process and digest what has happened, consolidating their learning
2. Reflect on what was meaningful, surprising, confusing, and so on
3. Appreciate oneself as a learner or contributor
4. Appreciate the community and what others have offered
5. Transition between classes

Examples of closure activities include:

- Taking a minute or two (or more) of silence
- Listening in silence to music
- Using crayons, markers, clay, or some other medium in silence or with music to express what students are feeling as the class or day ends
- Journaling or providing loose reflections in writing to questions such as the following:
 - What surprised you?
 - What made you think?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have from today?
 - What would you like to learn more about?
- Writing a response to any of the following:
 - What's one thing you would change for next time in any of the following—
 - ⊙ In your behavior?
 - ⊙ In the contributions of fellow students?
 - ⊙ In the contribution of your teacher?
 - ⊙ What could have made this class work better?
 - I need . . .
 - I am concerned about . . .

This writing can be private or handed in to the teacher, who may write comments on sticky notes in response to students with the collected sheets then returned to students in the last month of class during the review of the year.

- Having a pair-share discussion on feelings about the class or day, or to set an intention for the evening or next day
 - Conducting a check-out circle in which students stand in a circle and speak out—
 - ⊙ A word or phrase that describes one thing they are feeling right now, thinking about right now, or a question they have
 - ⊙ An affirmation of something someone else did in class that day which they really appreciated or admired

- Doing a telegramming activity where you distribute index cards and then ask students to write on the cards one thing they would like to remember about today's lesson if they forget everything else. Collect the cards and redistribute them to be read in turn or, if time is short, select and read a few.
- Reading a poem or inspirational text together as a group; each student reads a phrase or a few sentences
- Reading aloud to students a brief story, parable, biography, or poem that speaks to the themes raised in the class