

Class Starter Ideas

Starter	Instructions	Resources
I think... I wonder...	Show students an interesting short video and have them write down (post it/notebook) what they are thinking or wondering when watching the video. Share.	BBC Earth Videos Great Big Story Videos
Top 3	Have students create and explain a top three list based on a topic provided.	EXAMPLES: Foods/Pixar Movies/Childhood Toys/Artists or Musicians/Books/Childhood Memories/Cartoon Characters The possibilities are endless!
Flash Debate	Present a topic on the board and have students choose a side with at least one piece of evidence. Have students share thoughts (for an added element, have students toss a ball to one another to speak instead of raising hands)	EXAMPLES: Dogs v. Cats iPhone v. Android Beach v. Camping
Thankful Day	Have students write down a note to someone in their lives for which they are thankful. They can send a text to that person or write and deliver the message on a post-it.	Post-Its
Quicklist	Write a list of five emotions on the board. Give students five minutes to briefly write about moments from their lives when they experienced that emotion.	EXAMPLE: 1. Stressed 2. Disappointed 3. Grateful 4. Cozy 5. Enthusiastic
Joke or Riddle Day	Post a riddle or joke on the board.	Jokes Riddles

Author of the Month/Genre of the Month		
Book Talks	"Sell" a book to the students that you have read or let students book talk a book they have read with the class.	
Expert Day	Occasionally give a student the first few minutes of class to share about a topic they know really well. Let students know ahead of time.	
Haiku Day	Give students a topic and have them write a haiku about that topic. Unique perspectives are often the most fun EX: Poem from the perspective of a raindrop falling to Earth.	How to Write a Haiku Video (Beginning to 5:49) 70+ Hypothetical Scenarios (What If Questions)
What If?	Put a what if scenario on the board, and have students reflect on it.	EXAMPLE: What if you found a magic lamp and the Genie only gave you one wish? What would it be and why? What If Scenarios
Practicing Listening	Students partner up and ask each other a conversation starter question. Students need to listen to each response without speaking.	
First Things First	Students briefly research the first of something. EX: First person to climb Mount Everest. First chocolate chip cookie. First video game ever created. First musical instrument created.	
Video Short	Show a video short (many can be found on Youtube or Disney + if you have an account), and ask students their takeaway or theme of the short.	The Present Coin Operated
Snowball (<i>can be open or close</i>)	On a scrap of paper, students anonymously respond to a question, wad it into a ball, everyone tosses the paper in the air like a	

	snowball, and then picks up a paper and reads it out loud to the class.	
Name That Tune	Play three songs and have students guess what song it is. Could be random songs or themed. EX: Movie Themes/Video Game Themes/National Anthems/Decades	
What If...	Put a random what if situation on the board and have students respond. EX: What if you were only allowed to eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? What if you had a super power, what would it be? What if you could meet one celebrity, who would it be?	
Trivia Question	Can be individual or as a team. Give them a chance to answer	https://www.classichitsmy1059.com/trivia/

Class Closure Ideas

According to the [CASEL 3 SEL Signature Practices Playbook](#) (pg 36): Close each experience in an intentional way. An OPTIMISTIC CLOSURE is not necessarily a “cheery ending,” but rather highlights an individual and shared understanding of the importance of the work, and can provide a sense of accomplishment and support forward thinking. Optimistic Closures may be reflective about the learning, help identify next steps, or make connections to one’s own work. Since our learning and our work are always a part of an ongoing journey, these experiences bring a moment of pause, of collection, of reflection, to help anchor learning and build anticipation for the efforts to come. What’s important is that each engagement, class period, or school day ends in a thoughtfully planned and meaningful way, helping everyone leave with appreciation and energy, looking forward to connecting again.

Starter	Instructions	Resources
“I’m curious about....”	Ask students to list something that they are curious about or want to know more about from	CASEL 3 SEL Signature Practices Playbook , beginning at pg 36

	class today.	
Write a note to “my future self”	Have students write a note to themselves to read the next day. Students could be encouraged to express gratitude to themselves, what they would like to do differently tomorrow, an area they would like to improve, etc.	CASEL 3 SEL Signature Practices Playbook, pg 37
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