



Dear Academy Members,

To prepare for the 2021-2022, the Academy is conducting a 10-15 minute survey of Academy Certificate Holders. While we know that much is still unknown about the 2021-2022 school year, we want to understand the unique challenges that you expect to face. Whether it is navigating hybrid learning, adapting SEL lessons to a post-pandemic world or working to get students reacclimated to the routines of the in-person classroom, we want to hear about it! We also want to learn how the Academy can best support you, so that we can provide more of the resources that you find helpful and tweak the resources that you find less helpful.

We would love your input. After all, our best ideas come from our Academy members!

Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/3vcaM9c>

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## Teaching Tool

Right now, many of our students are coping with stress and big emotions. To allow students to process their emotions, Facing History suggests using Graffiti Boards. Graffiti Boards can be a large piece of chart or butcher paper, a white board or a Google Doc. After the teacher provides a prompt, quote or question on the Graffiti Board, students silently write their reactions to the prompt on the board. As they write, students have the opportunity to reflect on and respond to what their peers have written. In responding to the current moment, Facing History has provided instructions for how to incorporate Graffiti Boards in your [in-person](#) or [virtual](#) classroom!

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## Resources

1. Nora Fleming shares research on hope in this [Edutopia article](#). She shares how hope is a learnable skill correlated with self-esteem, social skills and success in school. She also provides strategies to help students become more hopeful.
2. The Academy's Dr. Maurice J. Elias shares [8 teaching strategies to help high school students build empathy](#).
3. Allow elementary school students to let go of anger, frustration and tension with this 3-minute [guided practice](#)

## Upcoming Events



The Newark Trust for Education is hosting their third annual Safe and Supportive Learning Environments Summit (SSLE): Covid-19 & Beyond from Monday, May 10th through Thursday, May 13th. This four day summit focuses on creating safe and supportive learning environments in a post-COVID world through five core components: culturally sustaining practices, equitable access, multigenerational approaches, standards-based approaches and systemic supports.

Admission is free and participants can pick and choose which events they would like to attend. We highly recommend checking out the agenda to see if any of the events interest you.

**Topic:** Safe and Supportive Learning Environments Summit (SSLE):

Covid-19 & Beyond

**Date and Time:** Monday, May 10th to Thursday, May 13th, 2021

**Agenda and Registration Link:**

[https://www.newarktrust.org/ssle\\_summit\\_2021](https://www.newarktrust.org/ssle_summit_2021)

Our second event is a webinar geared towards our district leaders and administrators. Join CASEL to learn how to leverage funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) to develop and sustain long-term Social and Emotional Learning initiatives in your district.

**Topic:** American Rescue Plan: Funding Social and Emotional Learning

**Date and Time:** Friday, May 21, 2021, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT/ 8:00 - 9:00 AM PDT

**Registration Link:**

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6478458165126231565?source=web>

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### **Virtual Professional Learning Community**

Our Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) is always looking for new topics or areas of interest. If you could send us an issue, topic, or question for which you would most like consultation/support we would greatly appreciate it!

Emails can be sent to: [SELvplc@gmail.com](mailto:SELvplc@gmail.com)

OR

Complete this [Google Form](#)



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