

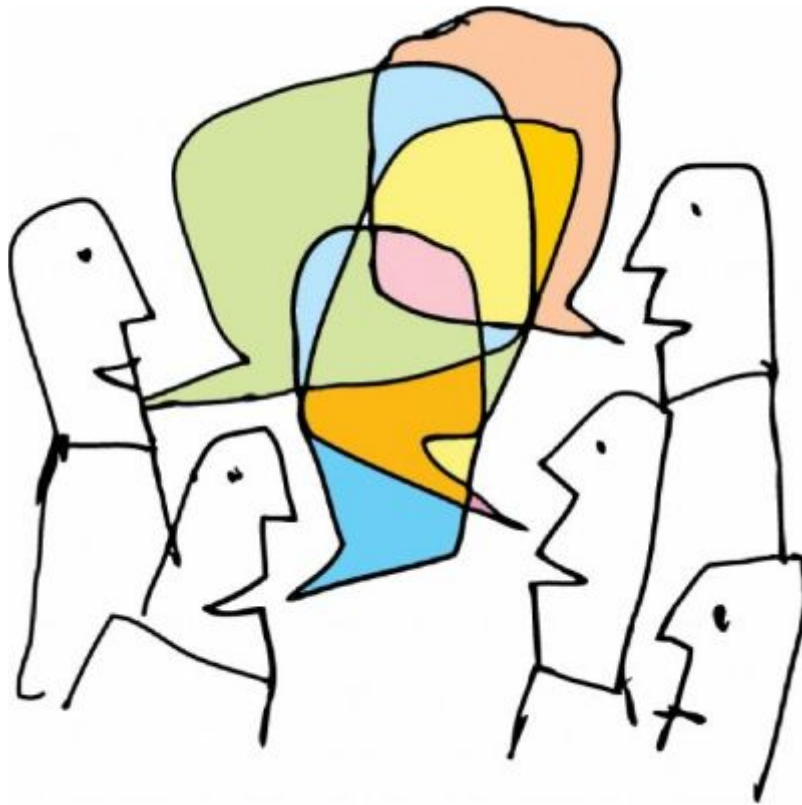


Dear Academy Members,

As many of our members approach the end of the school year, now is a natural moment for reflection. As we consider how to reflect on this past year, we might choose to tune into ourselves to reflect. What are my achievements from this past year? What obstacles did I face and how did I manage them? How have I changed or grown? A journal, self-talk or a serene space all provide wonderful outlets for reflection.

We might also choose to make reflection a collaborative process by inviting students, family, faculty and colleagues to join us in a practice of reflection. In reflecting with students, one option is to provide sentence starters or drawing prompts for students to first reflect individually. You can then invite students to share their reflections with partners or the larger group. Students may also choose to write a letter to their past selves at the beginning of the year offering words of encouragement and advice in navigating the school year.

In search of more reflection ideas? The [James Stanfield organization article](#) and [Hoa P. Nguyen's Edutopia article](#) provides additional reflection ideas.



Resources for Better Conversations

Resource 1: Written by Dr. Maurice J Elias, this [article](#) gives a refresher in developing strong conversation skills and becoming an overall more effective communicator. Listed at the bottom are additional conversation prompts to kick-start meaningful conversations and give way for students to express qualities such as problem-solving, empathy, and optimistic future-mindedness.

Resource 2: Melinda Wenner Moyer's New York Times Well Column, "[The Case for Criticism](#)"**, provides insight both into our reluctance to provide feedback to others and how we can better provide feedback. The article addresses common concerns about feedback and explains how we tend to underestimate others' desire for feedback, which often holds us back from giving feedback. To get better at providing feedback, Wenner Moyer shares suggestions: put yourself in the receiver's shoes, give feedback when the receiver is calm, share feedback focused on a few key items (not everything), and provide clear steps for improvement.

**This resource may be behind a paywall



Making SECD Instruction More Culturally Responsive

In this [Smart Brief](#), Cailin Currie shares four strategies to take an intentional, culturally responsive approach to Social Emotional Learning and Character Development. She outlines how elevating student voices, celebrating differences and emphasizing community can make the school environment a supportive community for all students. In her strategies, Currie draws on Emily Style’s pedagogy of using “Mirrors and Windows” to both make students feel represented in the classroom (mirrors) and to expose them to cultures and experiences that differ from their own (windows).



Upcoming Webinars

CASEL's next session in their Demystifying Social and Emotional Learning webinar series focuses on how to create a supportive, culturally responsive classroom and a school environment that fosters nurturing connections among students.

Topic: Demystifying Systemic Social and Emotional Learning: Supportive Classroom and School Culture

Date and Time: May 27, 2022, 11 AM - 12 PM, EDT// 8 AM - 9 AM, PDT

Registration Link



Our email address is:

secdlab@gmail.com

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