

Wishing you the brightest of holidays!

With the help of esteemed partners, we at School Specialty Planning & Student Development have compiled a few resources and classroom activities to help students and educators before and after the winter break.

Build Academic Skills

Critical thinking tips to share with students

- ❄️ **Don't accept things at face value.** Think about what you hear, read, and see. Learn about where and how information is collected.
- ❄️ **Ask why.** Research all sides of an issue, and learn as much as possible. Asking why leads to a deeper understanding.
- ❄️ **Challenge information.** Respectfully challenge information if you don't agree with it. One viewpoint might look convincing until you learn about another perspective.

Tips are partial excerpts from the Information Literacy Supplement, learn more on our website:

www.premier.us/Supplements 

Initiate character building

Sample elementary lesson plan about self-control with an emphasis on language arts

Students will create a collage of images and words that show and express self control.

- ❄️ **Assemble** a collection of newspapers and family magazines
- ❄️ **Begin** the lesson by discussing the meaning of self-control. Ask students to give examples of what a person looks and acts like when he or she is using self control.
- ❄️ Have students **look through** magazines and newspapers and cut out pictures that show examples of self-control. Have students paste the images on a large piece of poster board. They can also add words or phrases that describe self-control. Alternative option: Have students choose words that describe self-control and draw pictures to illustrate them. Have students put the drawings on a large piece of paper.
- ❄️ **Display** the collages around the classroom or school.
- ❄️ Extension activity: Ask students to **brainstorm** words that describe self-control. Write the words on the board. Then have students use the words to create a self-control dictionary. Students must define the words and use them in a sentence. Older students could write an example from their own lives. Younger students could draw pictures.

This is a sample lesson plan from the Journey to Success student planner, learn more at www.premier.us/Journey or visit our partner's page at www.coachwooden.com.

 www.premier.us/Journey

Focus on Leadership

Leadership tips for educators

Create an action plan to focus your leadership and manage the magnitude of change in your institution by following these steps:

1. **Develop** a strong school leadership team.
2. **Delegate** responsibilities to leadership team members.
3. **Select** the right work.
4. **Identify** the order of magnitude the selected work implies.
5. **Match** your management style to the change initiative's order of magnitude.

In partnership with McREL, the Mid-continent Research and Education Leadership. Tips are from our Professional Planning that Works! educator planner, learn more at the URL below or visit our partner McREL at www.mcrel.org.

www.premier.us/Professional-Planning



Cultivate Empowerment

Human rights classroom activities

Human rights education first establishes an understanding of respect for self, parents, teachers, and others. The next steps include social responsibility, citizenship and distinguishing wants and needs from rights.

Ask Students:

- ❄️ **What stories** about human rights they know and can share.
- ❄️ **To define** “marginalized people.” Ask if anyone in the class has ever felt marginalized. (Or have students write about an instance where they felt marginalized.)
- ❄️ **What courage** means to them.

Discussion questions are from Speak Truth To Power guides, learn more at the URL below:

www.premier.us/Speak-Truth

No hands!

Sample physical activity lesson plan for middle school

This activity addresses body awareness/object manipulation, problem-solving, and cooperation and communication.

1. Position students in a circle, facing out. Instruct them to hook elbows with their neighbors.
2. Put one piece of equipment in front of every fourth student around the circle. Select larger-sized, light equipment, such as cones, utility balls, paddles, etc.
3. Tell students the object is to move all pieces of equipment around the circle without using their hands.
4. On your signal, students should pass the equipment clockwise around the circle, using their legs and feet. Encourage them to not let the items touch the ground.



This sample lesson plan is from the Active Living student planner, learn more at www.premier.us/Active-Living or visit our partner's page at <http://www.sparkpe.org/>

www.premier.us/Active-Living

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