

ACTIVITY 69

End-of-the-Year Closing Activities

Purpose: Reflect on personal growth and learning over the year and appreciate individuals in the school community.

ADVISOR NOTES:

Choosing Your Closing Activities

This activity includes suggestions for different ways you can close the year with your advisory group. You might choose to have one closing activity or devote multiple meetings to final reflections and sharing. Regardless of whether you have one or many end-of-the-year activities, it is important that your advisees feel a sense of closure before heading off for the summer.

APPROXIMATE TIME:

One or more advisory meetings

MATERIALS:

Dependent on activities

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Notes of Appreciation (2 meetings)

- Spend one advisory meeting creating notes of appreciation for members of the group and school community. You might have each advisee make three notes: one for an advisee in the group, one for a teacher, and one for a staff member.
 - Have each advisee choose an advisee's name from a hat and then write that person a note that expresses something they appreciate about them, a positive contribution they made to advisory, a time they helped cheer up the writer, etc.
 - Choose a teacher to thank in writing, maybe for spending extra time tutoring or for helping the advisee learn something important about themselves or their world.
 - Make a list on the board of staff members to thank—the often unsung heroes of schools—and have each advisee choose one to appreciate with a note. Remember to consider the nurses, counselors, maintenance and custodial staff, cafeteria staff, librarians, the registrar, and security team.
- Provide supplies such as white and colored paper, glue sticks, and markers. Use an advisory meeting to sit in groups and create the notes. Encourage advisees to hand-deliver their notes to the teachers and staff members in the building so they can also shake hands and say “thank you” in person.
- Then, in the next meeting, have a circle discussion where each advisee gives their note to their peer and tells the group one of the things they appreciate about this person.

2. Goodbye Graffiti Board (1–2 meetings)

- Create a Goodbye **Graffiti Board** with memories, stories, and reflections from the year (visit facinghsitory.org/advisory-media to learn about this teaching strategy). If possible, use a long piece of butcher paper and supply your advisees with colored markers. You can pass out or project a list of prompts, or write them on the butcher paper in advance so your advisees can move from prompt to prompt during writing time. You can also brainstorm a list of prompts with your advisees at the outset of the meeting. Regardless, make sure there is enough space on the graffiti board so they can all stand and write at the same time. Prompts might include:
 - This group helped me . . .
 - My favorite moment in advisory this year was when . . .
 - I appreciated learning . . .
 - I appreciated it when . . .
 - I use to think . . . but now I think . . .
 - Advisory helped me think about . . .
 - One thing I learned how to do well this year was . . .
 - I enjoyed learning about . . .
 - I was challenged by . . .
 - This group helped me overcome . . .
 - Thanks for . . .
- After advisees have had time to reflect on the Goodbye Graffiti Board, read it together and comment on what you notice. If you are allowed to give permission for cell phone usage, invite advisees to take photos of the graffiti board to remember the community they built together.

3. Final Journal Reflection (1 meeting)

- Ask advisees to reflect in their journals using one or more of the Goodbye Graffiti Board sentence starters. Let them know that they will be sharing their ideas in a circle discussion.
- Sitting in a circle, invite advisees to share one or more ideas that they wrote about in their journals in a closing group discussion.