

BHERO's
Just in **TIME**

Peer-to-Peer

Relationship Building

STRATEGIES

FOR SECONDARY EDUCATORS

BHERO
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

FOR SECONDARY EDUCATORS

TWO-MINUTE TALKS

This strategy can be used at the beginning or end of a class period/school week and occur multiple times throughout of a semester. Each time this strategy is used, students choose a new partner to engage in a two-minute conversation around a specific question or prompt. These talks may stem from a “would you rather?” question, classroom content, or community issue.

TIP: Have students create a list of possible questions or prompts for discussion at the beginning of a term. This can be done using virtual collection strategies like a Google Form or Google Doc, or by full-class discussion as an icebreaker activity: “If you could learn one thing about your classmates this semester, what would it be?”

This strategy, similar to the Four Corners strategy, is related to perspective sharing. In moments of classroom discussion where varying viewpoints are shared, educators can ask students to “Take a Stand” and share the logic that helps them choose their perspective. Additional rules may include:

- If a student takes a stand, they must share their rationale for choosing their perspective
- Students are welcome to change their own views based on another student’s contribution to the conversation.

Variations include:

- Stand or Sit - 2 perspectives
- Four Corners - 4 perspectives
- Agree or Disagree - students stand along a line to show how strongly they agree or disagree with a prompt or perspective.

TAKE A STAND

Many students enjoy listening to music during independent work time. Educators can survey their class using a form or shared document to collect songs and create a class playlist. This playlist can be used during independent work time, or if some students prefer quiet, it can be used during times of group collaboration. Norming a class culture that listens to many genres together can re-introduce some long-forgotten hits and acquaint students with music they may not have ordinarily chosen for themselves. Some screening is required, but what a fun way to liven up the classroom!

CLASS PLAYLIST

CLASSROOM CLUBS

Participating in extracurricular activities is one way students build connectedness to school, but not all students have access to before or after school clubs and organizations. Secondary educators may consider creating “clubs” within their classrooms related to their content area—book clubs, science clubs, math clubs, community groups, etc.—that focus on building skills but still allow students to choose or create their learning path with peers. This strategy may involve small groups within a classroom that choose their own adventures, or a full class project that centers around solving a problem within the school or community. Allowing students to take ownership for their own learning can help boost camaraderie, build necessary skills, and provide an opportunity to create meaningful working relationships with peers.