



LESSON PLAN 32

SENSE OF BELONGING AND COMMONALITIES

PART A: LESSON METHODOLOGY

QUALITY	Sense of Belonging
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALITY	<p>According to Oxford dictionary <i>belonging</i> is the feeling of being comfortable and happy in a particular situation or with a particular group of people, and being treated as a full member of the group.</p> <p>According to Cornell University definition of <i>sense of belonging</i> is a feeling of security and support when there is a sense of acceptance, inclusion, and identity for a member of a certain group.</p> <p>Belonging in youth</p> <p>A feeling of belonging also positively affects youths' psychosocial functioning, meaning their ability to perform daily activities and interact with people around them. Research has found that a sense of belonging is an important factor in motivation of youth, and how they cope and learn in school (<i>Allen</i>).</p> <p>Paul is a good representative of promoting sense of belonging within the Scripture. Wherever he went, Paul preached the good news of our salvation and belonging to God's family, where we can find all important qualities for a fulfilled life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (<i>Allen</i>).</p>
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LESSON	<p>The lesson consists of three parts - introductory part (~ 10% of the time), main part (~ 75% of the time), final part (~ 15% of the time). The introductory part consists of: a) links with other lessons; b) introduction. The main part consists of theoretical and practical (individual, pair, group) parts. The final part consists of a lesson summary and conclusions, feedback, questions and answers.</p>



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<p>AIMS OF THE LESSON</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to learn the positive features of belongingness; 2) learn to differentiate between belongingness and identity; 3) to put into practice the positive traits of belongingness.
<p>NON FORMAL EDUCATION METHODS OF THE LESSON</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) theoretical training, 2) discussions, debates, learning to learn, simulation, observing, feedback, questions and answers, etc.
<p>AGE GROUP</p>	<p>13-15 years old</p>
<p>EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE LESSON</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) students learn the positive features of belongingness; 2) students learn the features of belongingness and identity; 3) realize the traits of importance of belongingness in their lives.
<p>PART B: LESSON DESCRIPTION</p>	
<p>SLOGAN</p>	<p><i>Tell me with whom you associate, and I will tell you who you are.</i> Johann Wolfgang von Goethe</p>
<p>DILEMMA</p>	<p>A person can experience a distinct sense of belonging depending on the context: a school, in class or subject area, within a group of friends or larger social categories, such as gender, race/ethnicity, and sexual identity. The sense of belonging stood out as one of the main values in the project. Within the project life-time, 305 young people of age 14 – 15 years were questioned regarding the thirteen values promoted by the project MoPYL, which helped to see the focus of the young people and develop lesson plans taking into account needs and expectations of youth.</p>

	<p>Talking about belonging also brings up the concept of identity. Identification entails perceiving membership within a group as important and self-defining (this can refer to both social categories and specific domains). The difference between belonging and identification: Belonging is a feeling of connection to a group, while identification is the importance placed on being a member of that group.</p> <p>The project research group also analyzed if young people add value to their community, are concerned about their future and can be role models for younger generations. According to the research report, all three statements are highly valued (in the average 70% of the respondents).</p>		
<p>MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR THE LESSON</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One sheet of newsprint for each group ● Markers ● Bell or noisemaker ● Prize 		
<p>LESSON LENGTH</p>	<p>1 learning hour, i.e. 45 minutes</p>		
<p><u>INTRODUCTORY PART</u></p>	<p>Anticipatory set</p>	<p>3 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● greeting and engaging students ● connection with prior learning on the topic ● explanation of the current lesson's material ● explanation of tasks for the students ● connection to the future learning
	<p>Introduction of the new material</p>	<p>2 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● direct instructions of the content ● modelling of new skills – sense of belonging ● checking of students' understanding



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<p><u>MAIN PART</u></p>	<p>Guided practice</p>	<p>30 minutes</p>	<p>TITLE: Sense of Belonging and Commonalities</p>
	<p>In order to stimulate debates and knowledge about the sense of belonging and its positive features, the game ‘Finding Commonalities’ will be played. This is a game that can be played several times, between 10-20 minutes. All participants get the chance to put themselves into the shoes of a leader, think of themselves as being a leader and make an introspective into what their traits as leaders are.</p> <p>The teacher starts with the slogan of the day "Tell me with whom you associate, and I will tell you who you are" by Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe and asks if someone has heard this slogan or a similar quote. The teacher mentions the author of the slogan and asks whether students know who Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was a German poet, playwright, novelist, scientist, statesman, theater director, and critic.</p>		
<p>GROUP EXERCISE</p>	<p>The teacher describes to the students the game and explains the rules.</p> <p>Description: The game ‘Finding Commonalities’ aims to bring students together and explore the things that they have in common, that unite more than separate them. Students live in groups, they are a community, schools become the second place where they spend most of their time. Well, similarities and differences exist between them and they need to be accepted and embraced. However, human beings tend to feel belongingness when they share more common traits. Have you ever thought of how many things you have in common with your peers?</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Break into small groups of 3-5. 2. Have each group designate a recorder by finding out whose birthday is next. 3. Tell participants that this is a competition among groups to see who can come up with the longest list. The topic of the list is: “Things We All Have in Common.” 4. Tell participants that when you ring the bell, they can begin. At that time they need to come up with a list of everything they can discover that they have in common with one another. Give a couple 		



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	<p>examples: brown eyes, like to read mysteries. Tell them they'll have 5 minutes, and to continue to add to the list until you ring the bell again.</p> <p>5. Give them 5 minutes.</p> <p>6. Now find out who's the winner. Ask first, "who had 5 or more?" Then "who had 8 or more?" and so on until you've established a winning group. Give small prizes to the winning group.</p> <p>This activity can be done in pairs as well.</p> <p>After the game, the teacher asks the students whether by identifying common traits, they feel that they belong more to their community.</p>	
<p>MORAL</p>	<p><i>"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."</i></p> <p>- <i>Voltaire.</i></p>	
<p><u>FINAL PART</u></p>	<p>12 minutes</p>	<p>Brief summarizing of the lesson, discussion of the lessons learned, debates if the learners raise unclear, discussable issues.</p> <p>Feedback of learners for the best practices to be applied for future.</p>
<p>REFERENCES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allen, K., A. 2020. <i>Do You Feel Like You Belong?</i> Accessed: 10.10.2022. https://kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2020.00099. 2. Cornell University. <i>Sense of Belonging</i>. Accessed: 10.10.2022. https://diversity.cornell.edu/belonging/sense-belonging. 3. Erasmus+ Project. 2022. <i>Mobile Program for Youth Learners. MoPYL Research Report</i>. Available at: www.mopyl.eu. 4. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. <i>Belonging</i>. Accessed: 10.10.2022. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/belonging. 	