

Gratitude Word Clouds

This project will allow students to practice speaking skills, listening skills, writing skills, and technology skills, all while building a visual presentation that conveys ideas of integrity and highlights how we all demonstrate integrity at school, generating connectedness with the larger school community.

Caring Sub-Concept(s)

Gratitude, Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- Interview cue card (optional)
- Notebook paper/pencil
- Computer access to use the word cloud generator
- Poster board
- Markers



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See last page for details.

Teachers prepare students for the lesson by reminding them about all the lessons they have gone through in the Caring Unit. For this project, students will get a chance to hear from others how they define gratitude and what they do and say that shows others what they are thankful for. They will also use the teamwork skills that they learned about in the Respect unit. Everyone will have a special job for this project and will need to work together in order to be successful.

Project Details:

Students are going to work in small groups to “interview” other grade level classes of students (this could be throughout the entire elementary or isolated to the other classes in their wing of the school) to discover what other students are grateful for. Students will then take their discoveries and put them into the free, online word cloud generator at ABCya.com to create a visual word cloud of integrity for the class they interviewed. (This is a very kid-friendly application that is easy to use and allows kids to be creative!)

Teachers should probably pre-select groups to ensure the following strengths are present in each group:

- Students who are comfortable speaking or engaging with others.
- Students who are strong writers.
- Students who are good with computers/technology.
- Students who enjoy art and working with visual presentations.

Teachers may also want to model the interview and note taking process by asking students in his/her own class what they are grateful for. Responses should be ONE word long, can be specific or general, and can be duplicated by others.

Teachers may also model how to use word cloud generators at ABCya.com (either in real time on the smart board or as a prepared cloud using different words).

After students collect the gratitude data from their assigned class and use the data to generate and print their word cloud, they will put the word cloud on a white poster board that they cut out in the shape of a cloud. Students should identify the name of the teacher and grade level represented in their cloud (Mrs./Mr. _____ 3rd Grade Class, for example).

Clouds should be hung in the hallway or other common area to show off everything the students at school are thankful for. A note could be added to

the board to explain that the words that are the largest in the clouds represent things that students were most thankful for (as repeated answers will generate a larger-sized word in the cloud).

Special Considerations:

Work with other grade level teachers to find a good time for your student groups to “interview” their classes. Explain the project and what students should be doing.

Work with computer teachers to gain access to enough computers to use the word cloud generator - a cross-curricular opportunity!

To help the interview process go quickly, you might have two students “interviewing” and two students helping as the “note taker” - starting at opposite ends of the room, the pairs of interviewer/note takers can meet in the middle (instead of one interviewer/one note taker having to go through the entire class). If this is not good for classroom management, have the classroom teacher help facilitate the sharing to keep things moving. There can still be two students asking kids about how they define, understand, or live with integrity, and there should be two writers, at least, to help them keep up with writing down the answers (students should take turns writing on their pads).

All group members should go to the class, even if they aren’t going to do the interviewing or note-taking; they can observe and be support representatives as team members.

A final word cloud poster would be a fun model; the teacher could create a gratitude word cloud for his/her class.

Extension Ideas:

Students who relate better with adults might form a group to interview teachers and school staff.



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Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL’s criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL’s highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>

Interview Cue Card

Hello! Our names are _____.

In our class, we have been learning about caring and gratitude and what it means to care for others and be grateful.

Today we want to ask you what you what you are grateful for.

Please think of just ONE word that represents something you are grateful for.

We will come around to each student to ask you for your answer and we will write it down.

When we are done, we will create a special world cloud poster to show you what your class is grateful for. We will hang our poster up for you to see when we are done!

Let's get started!

_____ will ask you what you are grateful for.

_____ will write down your answers.