

# Learner Series: History and School Discipline

## Series 7 | Video 6 | Reflection

### Cultivating Belonging

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### Purpose

In this video, Yoshimoto-Towery addresses the importance of creating spaces in our schools where students can talk about identity. Students are searching for a sense of belonging, and if school is not where they feel accepted, they will look for that belonging in other places, and those places and experiences may not be positive. Students should feel comfortable coming to school knowing they are accepted and safe.

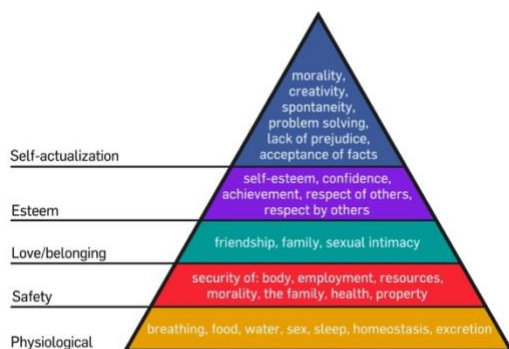
### Background

Identity is a human's sense of who they are and their sense of individuality. When having trouble trying to figure out your identity, one can experience confusion, isolation, and loneliness. These feelings can have a highly negative impact on one's life, especially while in education. It can also negatively impact students' mental health (childrenssociety.org).

### Reflections

Reflect on your own sense of belonging in your school environment. What factors contributed to your feeling of belonging, and are there any aspects that made you feel disconnected or marginalized? How did your understanding of your own identity evolve during your time in school? Were there any experiences or interactions that influenced your perception of self and your place within the school community? Consider the importance of fostering a sense of belonging among students in your school. What steps can you take to ensure that every student feels valued, respected, and included, regardless of their background or identity? How can you contribute to creating a more inclusive and affirming school environment for everyone?

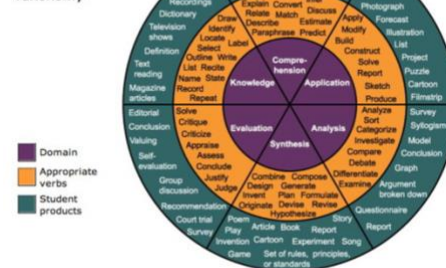
### Extended Connections



*Cultivating a Sense of Belonging in the Classroom*

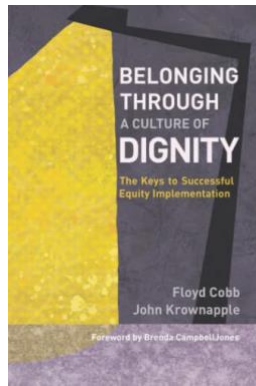
Rhiannon Phillip-Bianco -  
schoolrubric.org

Verb Wheel Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



*Create A Culture of Inquiry in the Classroom*

Jill Sims – casieonline.org



*Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity: The Key to Successful Equity Implementation*  
Floyd Cobb



*How to Cultivate a Sense of Belonging in Schools*  
Matthew Lynch – [theadvocate.org](http://theadvocate.org)

## References

“Identity.” The Children’s Society, [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people/well-being/resources/identity#:~:text=Why%20is%20identity%20important%3F,to%20people%20from%20different%20backgrounds](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/young-people/well-being/resources/identity#:~:text=Why%20is%20identity%20important%3F,to%20people%20from%20different%20backgrounds). Accessed 12 July 2023.