

**Optimistic Closure:
SEL Standards Connection (Diminishing Round Robin)**

Materials: Handout with CASEL Competencies + Skills and/or Local SEL Standards

Time: 5-7 minutes

Directions:

- Distribute handout and ask participants to choose one side of the paper on which to respond. “Put a checkmark next to each of the SEL skills you used, or you saw others using, during our time together today.” (*silent reflection / writing 2-3 minutes; read the room to see when most have finished.*)
- “Now please go back through the skills you put a checkmark by and circle just one that is especially important for you, today. One that you found important or valuable today, and circle it. (*Pause for another minute, more or less depending on your group.*)
- “In a moment, I’ll ask everyone to stand, and we’ll go around the room and one at a time, read the one circled SEL skill (or standard) and then be seated. I invite you to look boldly around the room as you read your choice, because everyone who happened to choose the same one today will sit down when you do. So, for example, if (NAME) says, “perspective-taking” and that was what I circled, I would sit down when (NAME) sits down. If you want to give them a wave or signal of connection (*demonstrate a hand signal*) please feel invited to do that!
- *Invite a particular person to begin or ask for a volunteer who’d be willing to start.*
- When everyone is seated again, you may wish to make a general closing remark. (“*Thank you for noticing, and sharing, the SEL skills that are so vital to our daily work.*”) or connect to student skill development. (*Like our work today, students and teachers who understand the SEL skills they are working to develop will be able to practice them throughout their school day.*)

Facilitator Tips

- You may wish to speak privately to one participant, to explain the activity and request that s/he goes first, so you know you have a model for others to follow.
- If the speaker doesn’t follow the model (either by expanding beyond just reading the skill or standard, or by not sitting down after sharing) use a warm tone or friendly hand signal to re-set the procedure.
- In very large groups, have a microphone for them to pass to the next standing person. (Personal experience: successful in groups from 10 to 185!)
- This activity provides “face saving” for anyone who wishes to pass without speaking “Pass” aloud (which is always allowable) because they can be seated any time someone else shares.