

Responsive Advisory Meeting Amid Tragedy

Lesson Plan

Reflect and Recalibrate

When students return to school after a tragedy, it is essential to welcome students back into the classroom and allow them to sit in a space where they feel comfortable. As your students enter, observe their actions and take the opportunity to look for students who are struggling. Students who remain quiet may have a more challenging time expressing themselves.

To ensure that the conversation remains respectful, relevant, and without misinformation, the teacher or advisor should act as a facilitator throughout this Responsive Advisory Meeting.

Arrival Welcome

Stand at the classroom door and greet each student as they enter. Make sure to use the student's name. If a student responds, that is wonderful. If they do not, that is also okay. Ask them to read the announcement message and find their seat.

Announcements

Welcome [INSERT GRADE LEVEL or NAME FOR STUDENTS],

Today might be a difficult day for some of us. But please know this classroom is a safe place to express your feelings and support others as they share theirs.

Quote of the Day: "Give sorrow words." —William Shakespeare, playwright

Think of one or two people you feel most comfortable talking to when upset. What about them makes you feel like you can speak openly?

*Add any appropriate school or class information that needs to be shared at this time.

Note: Prepare the announcements ahead of students entering the classroom.

Acknowledgments: Around-the-Table Chat

Students greet the person next to them by name and take turns sharing their response to the announcements prompt. Then, they have a more free-flowing conversation about what they and the person they greeted have in common.

Circulating and listening as students share with their partners is a great way to keep a pulse on what your students are feeling. If you hear something suitable for everyone to consider, ask the student to share it with the whole group.

The *Responsive Classroom* practice of Responsive Advisory Meeting provides students with a **safe and predictable environment**, which is especially important in the wake of a tragedy in the classroom or school community.

Activity: Maitre'd

Now that students have had the opportunity to discuss what others do to make them feel comfortable when they are upset, have them consider how they can be a source of encouragement for someone else.

Call out a table grouping (for example: "Table for 3!"). Students form standing groups of that number to discuss their responses to your question. Repeat as time allows, continuing to vary the table size. Join in on discussions, and remind and redirect any students who may be struggling.

Sample questions to ask:

- **Table for 3:** What is one thing we can do to take care of each other today?
- **Table for 2:** What is one thing we can do to take care of each other the rest of this week?
- **Table for 4:** How can you support classmates who need to talk?
- **Table for 3:** Is there something on your mind right now that you'd like to share with your table?

Reflection: Why is it important to think of ways to encourage others?

This can be a silent reflection, or you can ask volunteers to share.