

# First Day of School – Stations Activity

## Note to the Teacher:

Thanks so much for downloading these materials! This activity is designed to get students out of their seats on the first day of school as they get to know you, meet a few classmates, and clarify what they need to do to have a great year in your class.

**Pages #2-22** are designed to be projected for the class to see on the board. *(Every PDF reader has a “slideshow” or “view full screen” mode. If you’ve never projected from a PDF before, just search YouTube for the name of your PDF reader software and “full screen mode” to learn how to do this. Or, even better, just ask a teenager for help and you’ll be up and running in a few seconds.)*

**Pages #24-39** are designed to be printed and posted around your classroom before students arrive. If available, print these pages on colored paper which will help them stand out and visually guide students to the next station during the rotation rounds.

**Page #40** is an optional worksheet for students to complete after the stations activity is concluded or as homework. Print one per student and use whenever it best fits into your lesson plan.

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First, get eight sticky notes.



1

2

3

4

First, get eight sticky notes.  
Then, number your sticky notes

#1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Keep the #s  
small

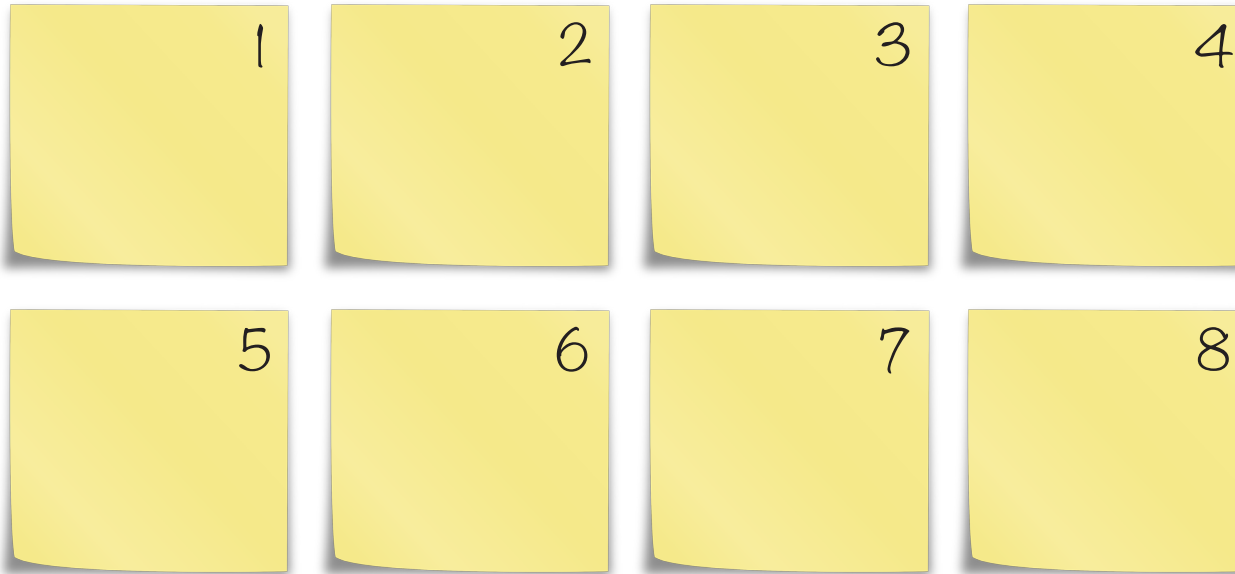
5

6

7

8

On the next slide, you'll see eight sentences for you to complete.



Finish sentence #1 on sticky note #1

Finish sentence #2 on sticky note #2

Finish sentence #3 on sticky note #3

And so on...

Get it?

**Do NOT write my sentence starter.**

Just finish each sentence  
on the corresponding sticky note.

1. I want to earn my high school diploma because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The most effective teachers are the ones who \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The most helpful classmates are the ones who \_\_\_\_\_.
4. One of my areas of strength in English class is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. One of my areas of weakness in English class is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. To read and really understand a challenging story or article, I need \_\_\_\_\_.
7. To produce my best writing, I need \_\_\_\_\_.
8. By the end of the year, I plan to achieve the following goal: \_\_\_\_\_.

Now that the sticky notes are  
complete, count off  
**1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8**  
to form eight groups.

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complete, count off  
**1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8**  
to form eight groups.

Join your group at the matching station.

Team #1 starts at Sentence #1.

Team #2 starts at Sentence #2.

Team #3 starts at Sentence #3.

And so on...

Introduce yourself to your teammates.



Introduce yourself to your teammates.

At the station, discuss your answer with your teammates. Ask each other questions about why those answers were chosen. When finished, post all of your sticky notes on the wall near the sentence starter.

You'll have two minutes before moving to the next station.

# BEGIN!

(A station rotation will be announced every two minutes until you've cycled through all eight sentences.)

You should now be back  
at your original station.

What a mess of sticky notes!

Organize the notes into  
similar themes or ideas.

(Example: If eight people said they want to earn their diploma because they want to get a decent job, group those answers together. If six people said they didn't want to disappoint their families, group those answers together. And so on...)

# Let's discuss.

What were the three most common responses used to finish your team's sentence starter?

# Team #1

I want to earn my  
high school diploma  
because \_\_\_\_\_.

# Team #2

The most effective  
teachers are the  
ones who \_\_\_\_\_.

# Team #3

The most helpful  
classmates are the  
ones who \_\_\_\_\_.

# Team #4

One of my  
areas of strength in  
English class is \_\_\_\_\_.



# Team #5

One of my  
areas of weakness in  
English class is \_\_\_\_\_.

# Team #6

To read and really  
understand a challenging  
story or article,  
I need \_\_\_\_\_.

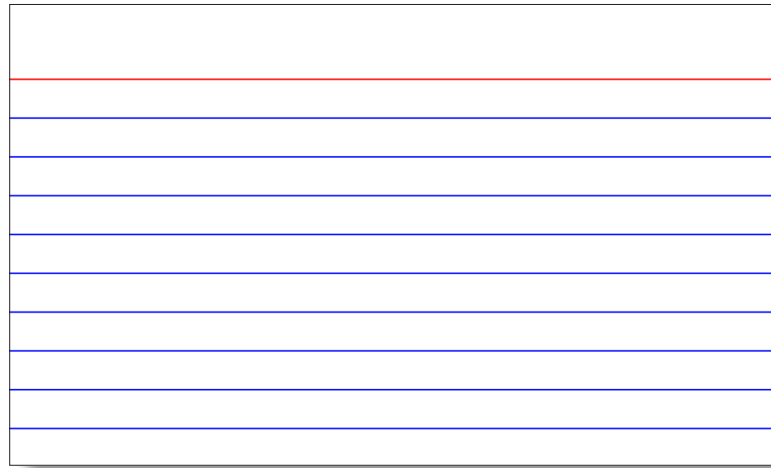
# Team #7

To produce  
my best writing,  
I need \_\_\_\_\_.

# Team #8

By the end of the year,  
I plan to achieve the  
following goal: \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, send a member  
of your team to get  
an index card from me.



As a team, decide the single  
most important thing for  
me, your teacher, to remember  
about today's discussion.

On the index card,  
finish this sentence:

The most important thing  
to remember about today's  
discussion is: \_\_\_\_\_.

(Again, no need to write my sentence starter.  
Just finish the sentence on the card.)

End of presentation

The following pages (p. 24 to 39)  
are intended to be printed and posted around  
the classroom before students arrive.

If available, print these pages on  
colored paper to help them stand out.

Sentence

#1



I want to earn my  
high school  
diploma  
because \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#2

The most effective  
teachers are the  
ones who \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#3

The most helpful  
classmates  
are the ones  
who \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#4

One of my  
areas of strength  
in English class  
is \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#5



One of my  
areas of  
weakness  
in English class  
is \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#6

To read and  
really understand  
a challenging  
story or article,  
I need \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#7

To produce  
my best writing,  
I need \_\_\_\_\_.

Sentence

#8

By the end  
of the year,  
I plan to achieve  
the following  
goal: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Directions**

Welcome! Help me get to know you by completing this grid. If you run out of space on the grid for any of your answers, feel free to continue writing on the back of this sheet.

Your full legal name:

A nickname/name you prefer to be called:

Period:

1

2

3

4

What kind of job/career are you considering for your future?

6

What do you like best about our school?

7

What do you like least about our school?

5

When's your birthday?

Where were you born?

8

Choose five words to describe yourself:

9

Your family situation. I live with:

10

What jobs, sports, hobbies, and/or passions fill your time outside of school?

11

Name two things that make you happy:

12

What are a few of your favorite musical artists, YouTube channels, authors, T.V. shows, etc...?

13

What email address do you use most often?

**YOU ARE HERE**

If there is anything else I need to know about you and your life that will influence your performance in this class, write that info on the back of this sheet or talk to me after class. Thanks!



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6-7-6

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What you might want to know

What you might want to know

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Report Card

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