

unique and united

CREATIVE EXPRESSION IDEA STARTER



Unique & United

The Students Rebuild: Unique and United project invites young people to explore their identities, celebrate their differences, and use creative expression as a force for empathy, unity, and bold ideas capable of transforming communities.

Through this campaign, students will:

- Reflect on what makes them unique.
- Recognize shared humanity between individuals, cultures, and communities.
- Use creativity to spark dialogue, challenge assumptions, foster connection, and ignite bold ideas that can change the world.

Activities to Explore Unique and United

These engaging yet easy-to-integrate activities invite students to reflect on what makes each person unique and how those differences bring us together as part of a shared human experience. Designed to inspire empathy, curiosity, and collaboration, they encourage students to celebrate individuality while understanding the power of community and belonging.



Visual Arts

United by a Thread

Students create a photo project using images—such as string, bridges, roads, trees, or fingerprints—that serve as visual metaphors for connection. Each student selects or captures an image that reflects how they see themselves as part of a larger whole. The photos are then displayed together as one large collaborative installation, illustrating the unique perspectives of each student and the threads that connect them all.

"Puzzle of Us" Collage

Students create a collage made of puzzle pieces, where each piece represents something unique about themselves—like a hobby, a favorite color, or a family tradition. Once assembled, the puzzle shows how all these different pieces fit together to form one whole picture, symbolizing how our individual differences connect us as a community. Students can add words or drawings on their pieces to share what makes them special.

Performing Arts

"Identity Monologue" | Celebrate Uniqueness

Students create and perform a short monologue (1-2 minutes) about something that makes them unique. They can describe a special talent, a family tradition, a unique perspective, or an experience that shaped them. The focus is on self-discovery and celebrating individual traits.



Literary Arts

"My Unique Voice Poem" | Celebrate Uniqueness

Students write a short poem (e.g., a haiku, a free verse poem of 6-8 lines) about something that makes them unique. They can focus on a personal quality, a cherished memory, a dream, or a physical characteristic. The poem should highlight their individual voice and perspective.

"Shared Story Chain" | Build Unity

In a group, students collaboratively write a "story chain." One student starts a sentence, the next adds another sentence, and so on, building a narrative where diverse characters (representing different unique qualities) come together to solve a small problem or create something new. This emphasizes how different ideas contribute to a unified outcome.

"Perspective Swap Short Story" | Celebrate Uniqueness & Build Unity

Students write a very short story (1-2 paragraphs) from the perspective of two different characters who initially have conflicting views or come from different backgrounds. The story should illustrate how they come to understand or appreciate each other's perspectives, leading to a connection or resolution. The focus is on empathy and bridging differences through narrative.

Media Arts

"A Wonderful World: A Celebration of Us"

In this collaborative film project, students reflect on what makes them unique by writing one personal line inspired by "What a Wonderful World". Each line becomes part of a class script that celebrates individual identity and shared humanity. Students then record voiceovers or on-camera performances of their lines, paired with creative visuals, such as personal footage, symbolic imagery, or artistic expression. The final product is a short film that weaves together their voices into a unified message of empathy, diversity, and connection, showcasing how our differences make the world truly wonderful.

STEM

"Our Unique Voices, One United Story"

In this AI-powered activity, students each share a sentence about what makes them unique, then use an AI text generator to weave their individual traits into a unified, collaborative story celebrating diversity and togetherness. After reviewing and refining the AI-created narrative as a group, students present their collective story through reading, illustration, or multimedia, reflecting on how their distinct voices combine to create something powerful. This activity fosters creativity, empathy, and critical thinking about AI's role in storytelling while highlighting the strength found in being both unique and united.



Culinary Arts

"Tastes of Us" Cookbook Project

In this project, students will create a collaborative class cookbook by contributing a favorite family recipe, cultural dish, or comfort food, along with a short paragraph explaining why the dish is meaningful to them. They are encouraged to include photos or hand-drawn illustrations to personalize their entries. The final cookbook can be published digitally or printed for the class to enjoy.

Extension Ideas:

- Share copies with local food pantries or libraries
- Organize a Family Food & Culture Night to celebrate and share stories and dishes with the wider community

"Snack Stories"

Students will choose a favorite snack and create an illustrated page that shows how it connects to their family, culture, or personal story. Each page will include a drawing and a short explanation of why the snack is special to them. All pages will be compiled into a colorful class storybook titled "The Snacks That Make Us Smile," celebrating the unique traditions and memories that food can carry.

Make an Impact

Regardless of the activity you choose, remember to share your creative expression at Studentsrebuild.org—each work of creative expression or student engaged raises \$5 to support organizations worldwide that foster connection and champion collaborative change.

