

# Connecting Teens Day



Building Bonds: Enhancing Teen Learning through Social Connections

Mónica Rodríguez Salvo

WE NEED TO BE CREATIVE IN HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF A WORLD THAT IS CHANGING RAPIDLY. THAT IS PRECISELY WHERE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS CAN BECOME THE BEST ASSETS TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THOSE CHANGES.

SEL CAN BE DESCRIBED AS LEARNING THAT ALLOWS ALL LEARNERS TO IDENTIFY AND NAVIGATE EMOTIONS, PRACTICE MINDFUL ENGAGEMENT AND EXHIBIT PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FOR HUMAN FLOURISHING TOWARDS A PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE PLANET.

Source: Rethinking learning, a review of social and emotional learning for education systems, UNESCO, 2020



Building Bonds: Enhancing Teen Learning through Social Connections

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Our compass for this session...

The salience network and why it can take your classes to a new level.  
Agency in the English classroom: activating the teen superpower

2 authors  
2 Practical tools  
2 Theories of learning

The social brain: the real game changer in the English classroom



### Introducing: The salience network

Dr Mary Immordino Yang

Affective and Social Neuroscience

COGNITION

Relevance creates disposition for learning.

EMOTION

SALIENCE NETWORK

Ph: Einhell



## What does it mean?



### DID YOU KNOW?



When teenagers articulate their purpose for learning—"I'm studying math to design more efficient farms," for example—they exhibit greater persistence on challenging or even tedious assignments like math homework, **solving 51% more problems** than peers who don't reflect on their learning purpose.

*Setting aside some time for students to connect classwork to future goals—or inviting guest speakers to talk about how they use math, science, or writing in the real world—is an effective way to motivate adolescents, the research suggests.*

Source: Yaniger et al., 2014



## The social brain



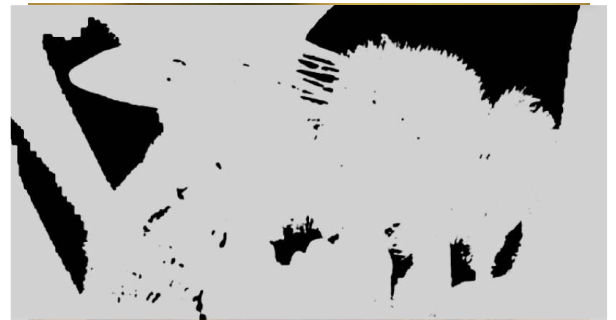
## TOOLS! #1- GOAL BOARDS

Your goals are an important part of who you are. Each of you will create a picture or collage that represents a goal you have for yourself. You can pick a big goal you want to achieve during your life, or a smaller goal that you want to achieve soon. The only rule is that you can't use any words.

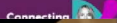
Write a sample If-Then Plan on the board using the following format:

Goal: \_\_\_\_\_ If (or when): \_\_\_\_\_

Then: \_\_\_\_\_



## The power of Agency in the classroom



Centricity  
Voice and choice  
**AGENCY**  
Personalized learning  
Meaningful, deep learning  
Motivation – autonomy

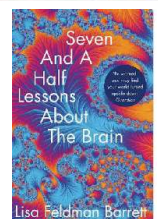
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Nuestro cerebro predice (casi) todo lo que hacemos

Anticipación

Podemos cambiar esas predicciones



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## TOOLS! #2

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**CHOICE BOARD**

**Learning Target**  
I can summarize chapter 2 of Esperanza Rising.

**Choice #1**  
**Comic Strip**  
Create a comic strip that illustrates the most important events in this chapter.

**Choice #2**  
**Music or Rap**  
Write and perform a song or a rap that retells the important events in this chapter.

**Choice #3**  
**Letter**  
Write a letter to a character with suggestions, questions, or comments about important events in this chapter.

**Choice #4**  
**Reenactment**  
Perform a role play retelling the main events of this chapter. You may work with a partner.

"WE CAN'T HEAL THE WORLD TODAY,  
BUT WE CAN BEGIN WITH  
A VOICE OF COMPASSION,  
A HEART OF LOVE,  
AN ACT OF KINDNESS."  
MARY DAVIS

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THANK YOU!!!!!!

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