



Pixton Practices Handout

SEL

For Use with Pixton PowerUp Webinar

Best Practice #1: Supportive Environment

Prep

Familiarize yourself with Pixton's diverse character options and settings, including avatars with wheelchairs, hearing aids, nonbinary presentations, and multicultural clothing, to point out options that might resonate with your student's interests and experiences.

Activity

Introduce Pixton to your class, emphasizing the importance of representation and inclusivity. Guide students in creating avatars that reflect their identities, individually or in groups.

PowerUp Variations

- **Class Photo:** Create a class photo within Pixton, showcasing all student avatars.
- **Share with Families:** Publish and share student-created comics with families to strengthen school-home connections.

Differentiation


Choice: Students can choose between individual or group work for caption creation.

Scaffolding: Provide sentence starters or visual prompts for students needing additional support.

Best Practice #2: Promoting Reflection

Prep

Review Pixton's premade SEL lesson plans, selecting options that align with your learning objectives and students' needs. Familiarize yourself with the five CASEL SEL competencies:



self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.

Activity

Implement selected SEL lesson plans from Pixton's selections, guiding students in creating comics that reflect on their emotions, experiences, and interactions with others. Encourage students to utilize Pixton's wide range of facial expressions and body poses to convey emotions and social dynamics in their comics.

PowerUp Variations

Have students create comics as visual journal entries, reflecting on their day or specific experiences.

Differentiation

Choice of Prompts: Offer a variety of reflective prompts to cater to different learning styles and interests.

Collaborative Creation: Encourage students to work in pairs or small groups to create comics, fostering collaboration and peer support.

Best Practice #3: Integrate SEL

Prep

Identify opportunities to integrate SEL into various subjects, such as Social Studies, Science, and Physical Education. Develop prompts or scenarios encouraging students to apply SEL skills in different contexts.

Activity

Guide students in creating comics that explore different subjects' social and emotional dimensions. Encourage students to create comics that bridge different subjects, highlighting the interconnectedness of SEL and academic content. Examples:

- Social Studies: Comics depicting historical events, focusing on the motivations and feelings of historical figures.
- Science: Comics exploring ethical issues in science, promoting responsible decision-making.

- Physical Education: Comics illustrating teamwork and conflict resolution in sports.

PowerUp Variations

Peer Review: Organize sessions for students to share their comics and provide constructive feedback, fostering empathy and critical thinking.

Differentiation

Choice of Subject Area: Students should be allowed to choose the subject area they want to focus on for their SEL comics.

Scaffolding: Provide graphic organizers or outlines to help students structure their comics and ideas.

Associated Research

Zieher, A.K., Bailey, C.S., Cipriano, C., McNaboe, T., Smith, K., & Strambler, M.J. (2024).

Considering the “how” of SEL: A framework for the pedagogies of social and emotional learning. *Social and Emotional Learning: Research, Practice, and Policy*, 3, Article 100030, 2773–2339. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sel.2024.100030>

McGarr, O., Gavaldon, G., & Sáez de Adana Herrero, F.M. (2021). Using comics as a tool to facilitate critical reflective practice in professional education. *SANE journal: Sequential Art Narrative in Education*, 2(6), Article 1. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/sane/vol2/iss6/1>

Schonert-Reichl, K.A. (2017). Social and emotional learning and teachers. *The Future of Children*, 27(1), 137–155.