

## **Create a prompt that invites students to share personal knowledge, experiences, or opinions.**

The teacher uses the following prompt to get students thinking about their personal experiences with the attitude-achievement relationship: "Think of a time when your attitude has either helped or gotten in the way of your success. How did your attitude affect your success?" To prepare students for the sharing process, the teacher has students jot down their ideas on paper before joining the circle.

## **Invite students to sit in a circle and share their responses.**

Students arrange their chairs in a circle and begin sharing. Everyone is required to participate.

## **Review key ideas by having students summarize each other's responses.**

Students restate or summarize their classmates' ideas, making sure to refer to each other by name.

## **Compare responses.**

With the teacher's help, students identify similarities and differences like these:

- "Taryn's and Carlos's experiences seem similar. Both spoke about how a coach helped them improve their attitude and how their improved attitude helped them get better at their sport."
- "Joe and Amy had very different opinions. Amy didn't believe that her attitude affected her performance in class, but Joe was convinced that his did. He supported his belief with several specific examples, like how when he made an effort to have a more positive attitude about math, he actually started doing better in math class."

## **Look for patterns.**

The teacher challenges students to develop generalizations about attitude that are rooted in their collective experiences. After some discussion and debate, students agree to these two generalizations: (1) Your attitude can affect your performance. (2) It's better to have a positive attitude than a negative one.

## **Extend the thinking and learning process.**

The teacher asks students to read the classic American poem "Casey at the Bat" and look for evidence that supports and/or refutes their generalizations about attitude.