**Respecting Others (Grade 9)**

**Activity II: Empathy**

**Note:** This activity asks to hand each student a peanut. It may be best to use dried beans instead, in case of peanut allergies.

Directions:

1. Each student receives a peanut (or dried bean).
2. Ask students to examine their peanut (or dried bean) carefully
3. Ask students to pretend their peanut (or dried bean) is a person
4. Ask students to think about their peanut’s (or dried bean’s) personal history. What type of experiences, advantages, disadvantages, struggles, and culture might your peanut (or dried bean) have had?
5. Ask students to give their peanut (or dried bean) a name, age, gender, and ethnicity.
6. Have the students jot quick notes about their peanut’s (or dried bean’s) story. (read the sample story or create your own)
   1. Sample story: “I’d like you to meet Selinas. She moved here when she was 9 from Florida. Some kids made fun of her accent, but not Jen. Jen invited her places and made her feel welcome. Now Selinas has a scholarship to attend college. She wants to teach English to English-Language-learners.”
7. Have students share the stories, with the belief that others with have understanding and compassion from its diversity.
8. After the stories are read/shared, have the students throw their peanut (or dried bean) into the center of the room. (If some are too attached, assure them that they will get their peanut/dried bean back.)
9. Ask students to then, find their peanut (or bean). (You will find that almost every student will be able to find his/her peanut. If a student is unable, ask other students help them. This can be a very powerful exercise.)

Peanut/Bean background and story:

**Student Reflection:**

Learning Target: I can show sensitivity to others, understanding that everyone has struggles and strengths.

1. What surprised you about this activity?
2. What about this exercise could be motivational?
3. What was it about your peanut (or dried bean) that helped you create its story?
4. What are some ways that you or others treat people because they are different?
5. What is something you will do to try to show more acceptance of others?