

Community Building and Early Content Theme

- **Build a community of learners**
 - Establish clear values
 - Conduct activities to promote buy-in to values
 - Post and refer to values frequently ... live them and honor them
 - Conduct activities to practice individual and group work skills
 - Establish and reinforce expectations for quality in work products
 - Promote and celebrate independent problem solving
 - Frequently assess how things are going and tie back to values
 - Don't neglect the debriefing handle of the lesson format; this is your opportunity to show the students how much you value the process of learning to work together and produce quality work.

- **Early Content Theme (ECT)**
 - Use as a vehicle to teach and reinforce values and work habits noted above
 - Practice Activity Center formats and behaviors needed to become independent of teacher and interdependent with each other.
 - The content of this unit is anything appropriate to your subject area, and may have a culminating event, product or portfolio collection, but its overarching purpose is to create your community of learners.