

The Thing I Like Most About You

- 1) **Have each student write their name on a piece of paper and place it in a hat or a container.**
- 2) **The teacher will then draw a name out of the hat. Let's say the name is Jim.**
- 3) **Jim will not be involved in the activity at this time.**
- 4) **Each student in the class will then write a paragraph or two describing the thing that they like most about Jim.**
- 5) **The paragraph must contain one quality that they like with supporting details. (The 50 character qualities contained in the course would be a great resource for this)**
- 6) **Once all of the essays are collected by the teacher they will be reviewed to be sure that no student wrote anything off color or hurtful in their essay.**
- 7) **Each participant will then read their short essay to Jim.**
- 8) **Jim would then receive these essays in a decorated folder to take home and to read whenever he would like to.**
- 9) **This activity should start around October when the students have had a chance to get to know each other**

Possible Questions

Q -What if a student refuses to write the essay?

A – His name is removed from the hat until he participates.

Q – Should all students have to do this?

A- Yes. It is not about feeling like it at this point. It is to give the students the language to say positive things to their classmates.

Q -What if student writes negative comments?

A – Their essay is pulled and the teacher determines if this was intentional or if the student just didn't know any better. The teacher then sits with the student to assist in making revisions.

How does this activity reduce bullying and create a more positive and kinder classroom environment?

1. Even bullies need to hear some nice things. As a matter of fact they crave it. If a bully's name is selected it gives the class a chance to discover his/her positive qualities and write about them.
2. If a victim's name is selected it gives the class a chance to write positive things about him/her. A bully will refrain from making negative comments to the victim because he or she has discovered that the rest of the class has now made so many positive comments.