



# Back to School Launch Sample

Use this step-by-step guide to help use components of the **Inspired School Year Engagement Package** to launch the start of the school year.

The schedule provided is approximate, and you can adjust the times and topics as you see fit for your specific needs. We also recommend that you thoroughly review the materials before the training session so you become familiar with the components and can determine which are the most useful for your school.

9:00 – 9:15

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## Welcome

Share the schedule for the day

## Set the stage

*(Celebrate What's Right With the World Facilitation Guide; page 2)*

Share the **Welcome to Celebrate What's Right With the World**.

9:15 – 10:30

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## Show the film 'Celebrate What's Right With the World'

As a group, ask what concepts from the film they found most memorable. Encourage people to share why.

## Explore in detail: 'Key Concept 3: Look for Possibilities'

(page 10: Celebrate What's Right With the World Facilitation Guide).

## Share the quote from the film:

*(Celebrate What's Right With the World Facilitation Guide; page 10)*

"I was about to give up, when a voice inside me said, 'Come on Dewitt, what's here to celebrate? I know this wasn't how you planned it, but what's right with this situation. Where are the possibilities?'"

"I began to build a vision of a world not of scarcity, but of possibility."

—Dewitt Jones; *Celebrate What's Right With the World*



9:15 – 10:30 (Continued)

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## Share the 'Look for Possibilities' Program Insight

*(Celebrate What's Right With the World Facilitation Guide; page 10)*

### As a group, explore Facilitator Question #2

*(Celebrate What's Right With the World Facilitation Guide; page 11)*

Do you agree with Dewitt's observation that the opposite of scarcity isn't necessarily abundance, but possibility? Why or why not?

Write down their responses.

### Have the groups do the Look for Possibilities: Team Activity

*(Celebrate What's Right With the World Facilitation Guide; page 11)*

- Break into small groups of 4-6 people (encourage that they mix up the groups).
- Gather as a large group and have fun sharing the stories the groups created.
- As a large group explore the take-a-ways from this lesson and exercise. Identify five ideas that people can practice at school.

Ask each participant to help write a story that begins, "It was a dark and stormy night." The first participant will write the next sentence, and the next person will add the second, and so on. Participants should take between twenty or thirty seconds to think of their sentence. Any twist and turn to the plot is fine, although participants should, of course, keep the story appropriate for a work setting. When everyone has added a sentence, read the story aloud.

This exercise should help show participants that they can come up with answers even when they're under the gun. Does the final story sound like anything anyone might have imagined?

10:30 – 12:00

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## School specific itinerary

12:00 – 1:00

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## Lunch



1:00 – 1:30

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## **Welcome everyone back**

Review the morning. Share goals for the afternoon.

## **Show the film 'Don't Prove, Improve' (from 'Short Stories')**

### **Share the 'Don't Prove, Improve' Program Insight**

*(Short Stories Facilitation Guide; page 18)*

### **As a group, facilitate the Activity: Improvement Can Lead To Recognition**

*(Short Stories Facilitation Guide; page 19)*

1. Invite someone in the group to be the recorder, and write everything down for all to see.
2. As a group, make a list of all the attributes that go along with recognition (examples: prestige, funding, enrollment, etc.).
3. Next, make a list of all the attributes that go along with improvement (examples: learning, discovery, growth, etc.).
4. Discuss why both are important, and if people believe one is more important than the other.
5. If it does not happen organically, shift the discussion to focus on how improvement can actually help lead to recognition.

1:30 – 3:45

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## **School specific itinerary**

3:45 – 4:00

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## **Conclusion**

Thank everyone for a great day. Review what was accomplished.

## **Close the day with the film 'Thank You' (from 'Short Stories')**