

- Share a new skill or process you are learning—not the finished product but the less-than-perfect beginning and middle parts.
- Share your interests with the whole class and then find fellow fans among individual students with whom you share an interest in the same sports teams, movies, or hobby.
- Bond over a local social cause that means something to you. Let students make a connection to what is important to the community and to you.

Use the worksheet below (Figure 5.3) to reflect on how you might use the trust generators to build a more authentic connection with your students.

Assessing the State of Rapport in the Classroom

Our ultimate goal is to position dependent learners so that they will take the intellectual risk and stretch into their zone of proximal development (ZPD). That’s the point of rapport—building trust is designed to help dependent learners avoid the stress and anxiety that comes with feeling lost and unsupported at school.

Figure 5.3 Points of Connection Worksheet

My Points of Connection	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What do you see as the best points of connection you can make with your students?</i> • <i>In the space on the right, identify a few experiences or stories you might share based on some combination of the trust generators.</i> 	
<p>Trust generators to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective Vulnerability • Familiarity • Similarity & Interests • Concern • Competence 	