**Intervention Example 3: Emphasizing Similarity with a ‘Get to Know You’ Survey**

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| **Research base:**  ***Creating Birds of Similar Feathers: Leveraging Similarity to Improve Teacher-Student Relationships and Academic Achievement***  Gehlbach, Brinkworth, King, Hsu, McIntyre, & Rogers, 2016 |
| When people perceive themselves as similar to others, it results in greater liking and closer relationships. Is it possible to leverage similarity to create better relationships between teachers and students? To test this, Gehlbach and colleagues gave ninth-graders and their teachers a basic “get-to-know-you” survey that inquired about their interests, hobbies, and preferences. Based on the responses to this survey, teachers received feedback on how they were similar to half of their students (they received no information on the other half of their students). Half of the students learned how they were similar to their teachers (the other half in a control condition learned how they were similar to students in another school). Teachers felt closer to the students that they received the similarity feedback about and these students went on to earn higher grades at the end of the term. These effects were strongest for African American and Latino students. The effects of this intervention were more present for teachers’ perceptions of their students than for students’ perceptions of their teachers. |

**Here’s how it works:**

Panorama’s *Get to Know You* survey asks students to answer questions about their interests and hobbies outside of school, as well as questions about their values and learning styles. Panorama’s online survey lets teachers complete the survey before their students take the survey in class. In doing so, students will instantly see what they have in common (up to 5 shared items) with their teacher upon finishing the survey. Once students have completed the survey, teachers can sign in to their Panorama account to view what they have in common with their students and be prompted to reflect on these similarities.

More information: <https://backtoschool.panoramaed.com/>