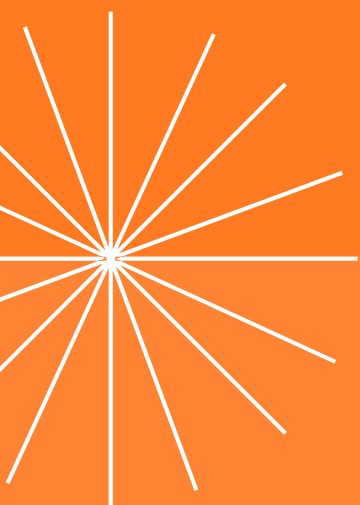


# HOW TO TALK ABOUT NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WITH YOUR STUDENTS



## THINK CONTEXTUALLY

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Talk about the context of Residential Schools within these lands currently known as Canada. Keep the conversation focused on the Canadian context of what happened, and don't draw parallels to other forms of genocide or assimilation. Don't minimize what happened, or shift blame or responsibilities. We all have a role to play in reconciliation.



## DO YOUR OWN LEARNING

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Commit to your own learning about what the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is all about so that you are prepared to share with your students in a meaningful way that doesn't deflect or avoid hard truths. Lean into the discomfort that you might feel.

## LISTEN

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Find resources that centre Indigenous voices and use them as a means to allow them to share their perspectives and experiences on the topic. Listen to your students if they bring up the topic, and allow a dialogue to take place that centres the truth, and offers solutions for actionable steps forward.



## FOCUS ON ACTION

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Ground your conversations with students in a focus on actionable steps for reconciliation. Move beyond feelings of guilt, shock and fear to create space for solution-oriented ideas to emerge. Allow students time to think about what reconciliation means to them, and explore ways they can take action to create changes both within classroom spaces and beyond.

## THINK BEYOND SEPTEMBER 30TH

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Reconciliation is about sustained, meaningful and action-oriented relationship building and collaborative effort over time. Think about what you can do within your role as an educator beyond September 30th. How can you include themes of Indigenous histories/realities, reconciliation and decolonization in your course, and in your pedagogical and professional practice?



SEE THE QUEEN'S OFFICE OF INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES WEBSITE AND THE CENTRE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING'S WEBSITE FOR MORE RESOURCES.