

# Welcoming students to Along

5 tips and resources to ensure a meaningful space to connect and reflect.



**TIP 1:**



## Incorporate Along into your routine.

**Establish a reflection routine.** Students want to know when to anticipate a new reflection question from you and when you will view their responses. By creating a regular schedule, Along becomes an expected and effortless part of the week—both for you and your students.

I look forward to my Friday Along videos. I constantly check my email like, 'Is it coming yet?'

-Leilani, Student

### Weekly Schedule - Example

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	 <p><b>1.</b> Choose your reflection question and share it with students.</p>		 <p><b>2.</b> Remind students to share their reflections with you.</p>	 <p><b>3.</b> Review and respond to student reflections.</p>



**RESOURCE:**

Use this [customizable calendar](#) to plan your first few check-ins with students.

**TIP 2:**



## Introduce Along to your students.

### Students want to know about Along.

Hold a kickoff meeting with your class to:

- Explain what Along is and how it works.
- Share your excitement about developing a meaningful connection.
- Support students as they sign in for the first time.

Along is a tool that helps me to see the unique qualities of my teachers and the fun side of them that I might not have ever seen before.

-Charity, Student



### RESOURCE:

Use this [customizable slide deck](#) to plan your introduction and build class momentum.



### TIP 3:

## Model reflections for students.

### Students take cues from us.

- Record and share your response to the question.
- Be excited. It's fun to try something new!
- Be ready to share your own goals, values, and aspirations.
- Be ready for students to impact you just as much as you impact them.

I want the teacher to come off as relatable and casual. We're just having a conversation and you don't have to be perfect at it.

-Tia, Student

### TIP 4:



## Validate student reflections.

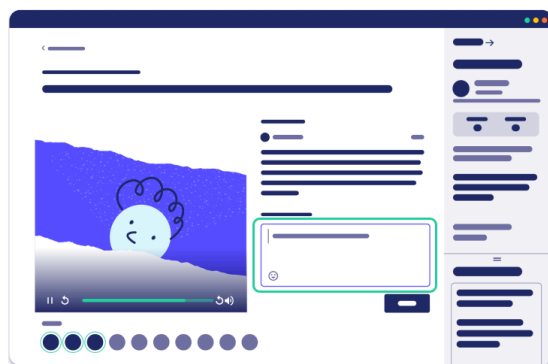
### Reply to student reflections with a short message.

Students want to know you value them. Replying with a quick note:

- Shows you care by making each student feel seen and understood.
- Strengthens your connection with the student and builds trust.
- Encourages students to continue to share with you.

With Along, I say to my students ‘I like hearing your responses, I like hearing what you have to say, I like seeing you and I hope that you appreciate what I’m sharing about me.

–Kimi, Educator



Reply box on Along’s watch page



TIP 5:

## Be patient and persistent.

### Give students the time and opportunity to come Along with you.

Just like all people are different, all relationships are different. Some students may take longer to respond or to open up. We’ve heard from students that they want to have the choice to share and an opportunity to connect in Along—not a requirement or an assignment.

Encourage students by:

- Being genuine. They want to know the real you.
- Sharing reflections routinely and being clear about expectations.
- Giving them choices in when and how they reflect.

Students will reply in their own way. Don’t assume they are not watching or listening if they don’t reply.

–Stacey, Educator