### Creating a Culture of Respect and Rapport

**Ms. Owens:** Now, remember, class! We’re working with our partners on coming up with symbols of patriotism. After you’ve had some time to work, be ready to share and explain one of your symbols.

**Marcus:** Flags are symbols of patriotism! Let’s write that one down.

**Aaron:** The military too, since they defend our country.

**Mya (thinking to herself):** Hmm... but in my home country, the military is scary.

**Aaron:** What do you mean? How can the military not be patriotic? They fight for our rights every day!

**Ms. Owens:** Aaron and Mya, I think you both have very valid opinions. Let’s talk about this a little more! Mya, can you explain your opinion to help Aaron understand?

**Mya:** Well, in MY home country, people are afraid of soldiers. When you saw them, it usually meant you had to leave because fighting was near. It would be too dangerous to stay.

**Aaron:** Oh...my uncle is in the Air Force here, so I didn’t think about how militaries in other countries worked. I guess that’s why I didn’t understand your view right away.

**Ms. Owens:** That’s okay. Remember our classroom rule: Everyone has beliefs that are important to them, and it’s our job to respect one another, and to try to understand one another’s points of view. I think Aaron and Mya understand each other much better now.

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Creating a Culture of Respect and Rapport – Video Script Handout

Ms. Owens: Marcus, what do you think of this discussion?

Marcus: I guess it’s important to understand that not every country has an honorable military like we do in the United States. I think we should share our discussion with the class, if it’s okay with Aaron and Mya.

Ms. Owens: I think your classmates would really be interested in hearing the reasons behind these different viewpoints of the military as a symbol. Mya and Aaron, would you be comfortable sharing this with the rest of the class?

Mya: Yes!
Aaron: Yeah, sure!

How could establishing a classroom of mutual care, respect, and trust enhance student learning?

Now that you have watched Ms. Owens model qualities that encourage a classroom environment that values respect and builds positive rapport between students, how would you answer these questions?

How could beliefs and expectations within a classroom impact student learning?
How could a positive relationship provide essential supports for learning?
How could establishing a classroom of mutual care, respect, and trust enhance student learning?