TRAUMA-INFORMED BEST PRACTICES ACTIVITIES



Activity 7.4

Empathy v. Sympathy Video

Objective:

• Understand the difference between empathy and sympathy in our interactions.

Materials:

• Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evwgu369Jw

Steps:

- 1. Begin with Dr. Brené Brown's quote: "Empathy fuels connection and sympathy drives disconnection."
- 2. Before watching the video, ask participants to write on a sticky note what they think sympathy and empathy each mean and place their note on chart paper (or use an online tool like Mentimeter).
- 3. Watch the video together.
- 4. Discuss:
 - o Were there any "aha!" moments?
 - o Were you correct in your initial definitions of sympathy and empathy?
 - o How can this help us in our dealing with students?