

Promoting the Concepts of European Identity and Values in Ukrainian University Students: Insight into the Concepts of European Identity and Values and How to Promote Them among Ukrainian University Students

LESSON 6

UKRAINIAN STUDENTS AND THE EUROPEAN FUTURE

Perceptions of Inclusion, well-being and Identification with the European Union in Ukrainian university students



Co-funded by the European Union

In this lesson we will:

- Explore how Ukrainian students experience academic transition in European universities
- Understand the role of tutors in supporting well-being and inclusion
- Review key evidence from the UkraStud project
- Identify practical strategies to strengthen academic navigation and social integration



Ukrainian Students in Europe

- At European universities: Ukrainian students often face complex academic, social, and cultural transitions.
- Adapting to new systems and expectations: affect confidence, engagement, and well-being.
- Tutors shape academic success and students' sense of belonging in academic space.



This lecture explores how everyday teaching practices contribute to inclusion, well-being, and European identification.



Ukrainian students often face multiple transitions at once, which can affect...

Multiple transitions

Adaptation to a new academic system

Unfamiliar teaching styles and assessment methods

New social norms and communication patterns

Confidence

Psychological well-being

Academic engagement



Supporting Academic Navigation

- Academic navigation is a student's ability to understand expectations, interpret grading criteria, manage deadlines, and complete assignments with confidence.
- Tutors play a crucial role in supporting this process. You can:
 - ✓ provide clear written and verbal instructions
 - ✓ use transparent grading criteria
 - ✓ share examples of successful work
 - ✓ distribute materials in advance
 - ✓ check understanding without judgment

By taking these steps, tutors reduce uncertainty and support students' well-being, enhancing the academic experience.



Insights from the UkraStud Project



Findings from the UkraStud project show:

- Students report satisfaction with institutional inclusion policies strongly predicts psychological and social well-being.
- Respectful support from academic and administrative staff → higher well-being.

- Frequent positive contact with peers and locals → better attitudes and stronger European identification.

*These findings highlight a consistent pattern:
Supportive structures and respectful interaction are
strongly linked to well-being and identification.*



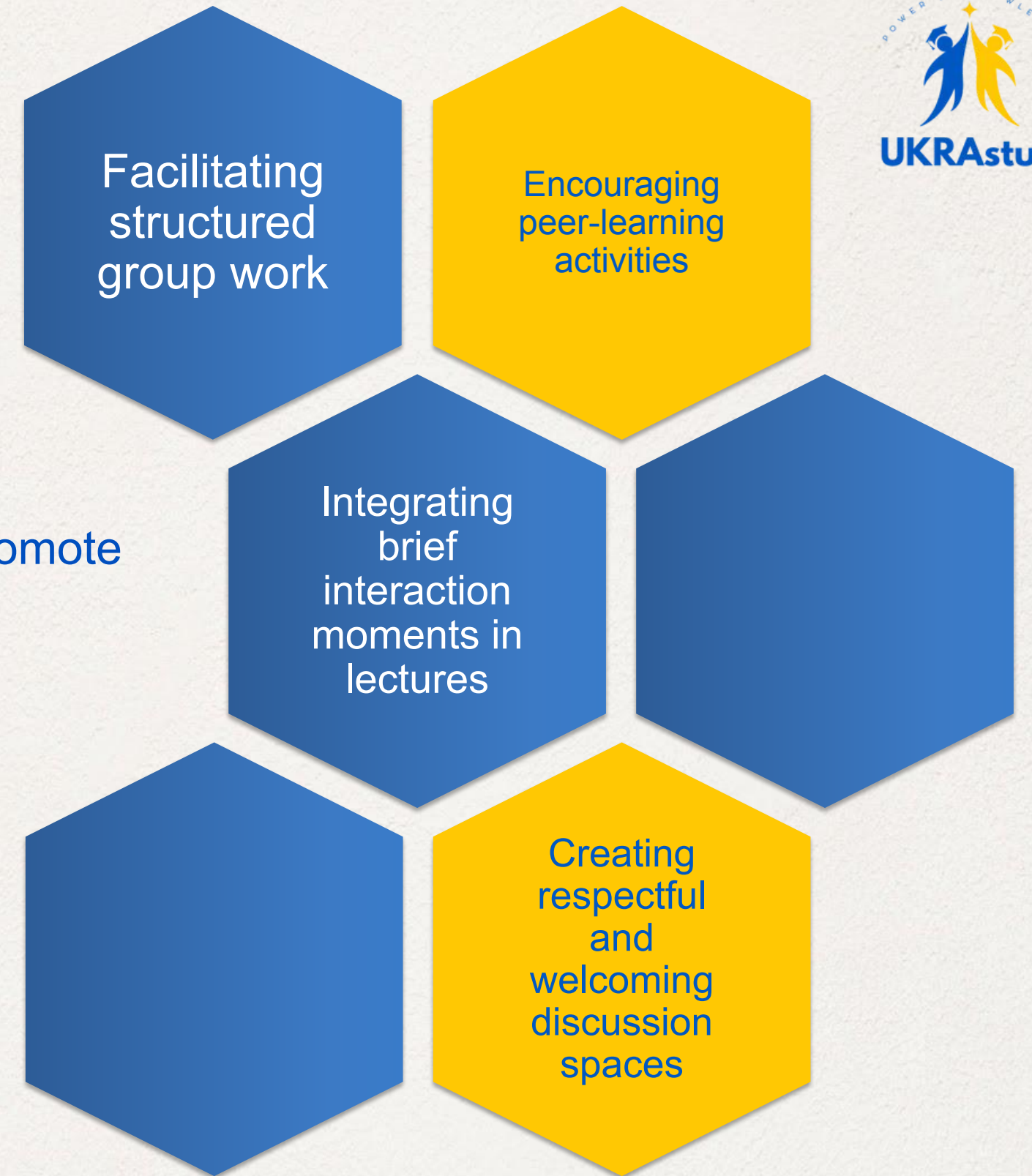
The Role of Tutors



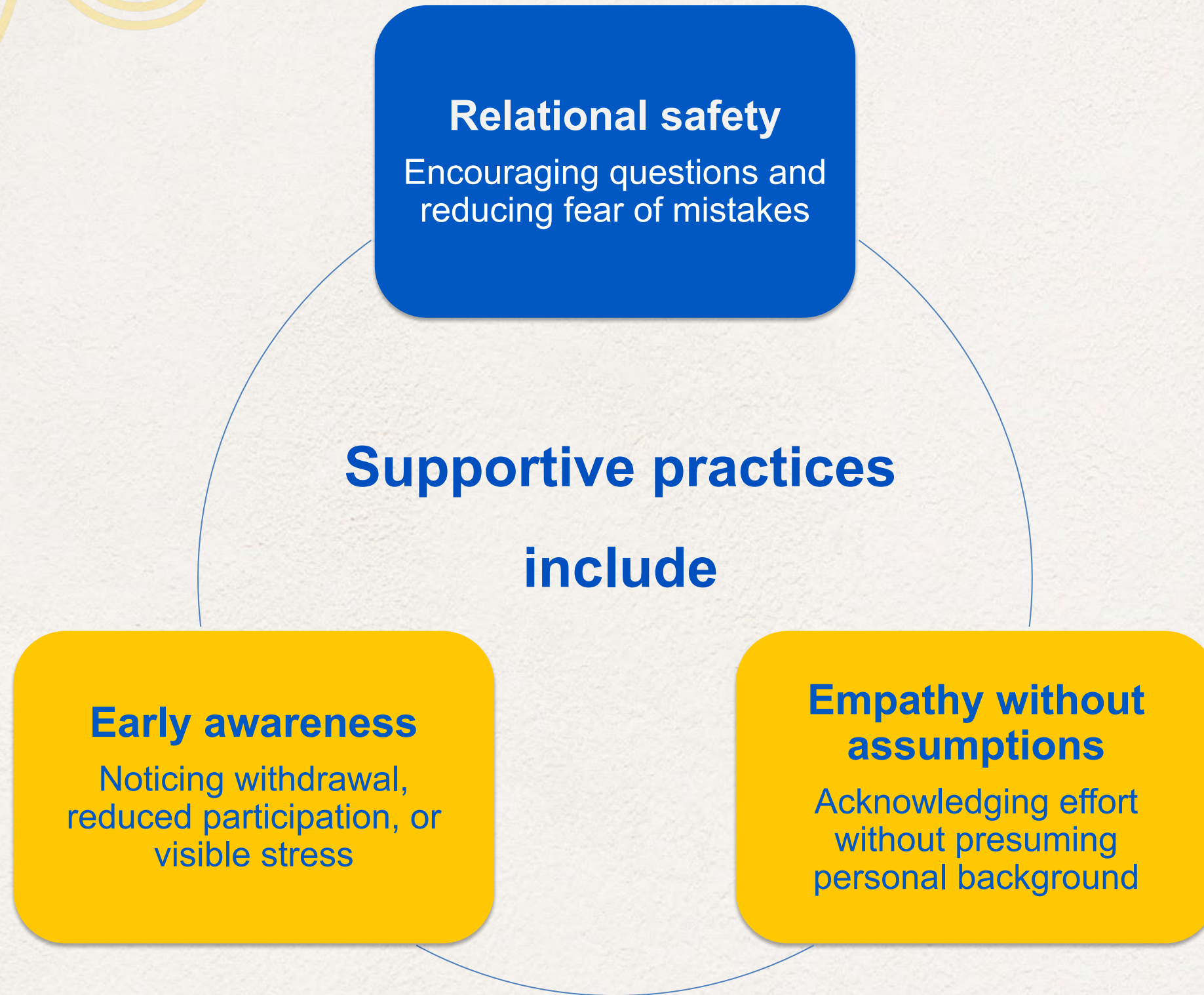
***Support Social
Integration***



Tutors can actively promote social integration by:



Classroom design shapes intergroup contact, helping students feel included, supported, and connected.



Students who feel supported and respected consistently report higher well-being.

The Role of Tutors



Support Student

Well-Being

The Role of Tutors



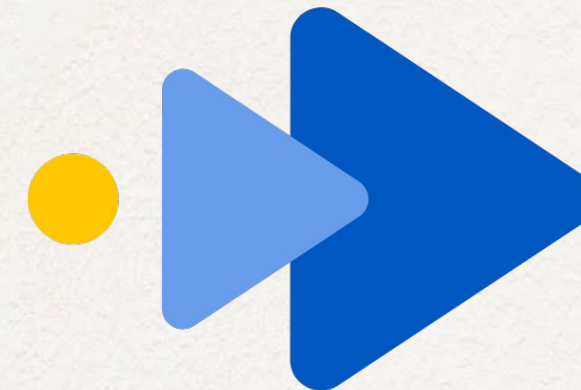
Support

Communication

Tutors can

Use open, non-judgmental language;
Break assignments into manageable steps;
Validate challenges while offering realistic guidance.

Language shapes student experience



Examples

“Let’s break this down together.”
“Your perspective adds value to this discussion.”
“We can clarify this step by step.”

Effective communication empowers students to engage fully and confidently in their learning.

5 to Practice

Keep these 5 in mind – and build a classroom where students flourish.

1 Provide structured academic guidance

2 Encourage safe and inclusive communication.

3 Facilitate peer interaction.

4 Observe early signs of stress.

5 Explicitly acknowledge effort and progress.

Activity 6.1. Support Their Journey

Choose one practical action this month:



1. **Clarify** expectations in one upcoming assignment.

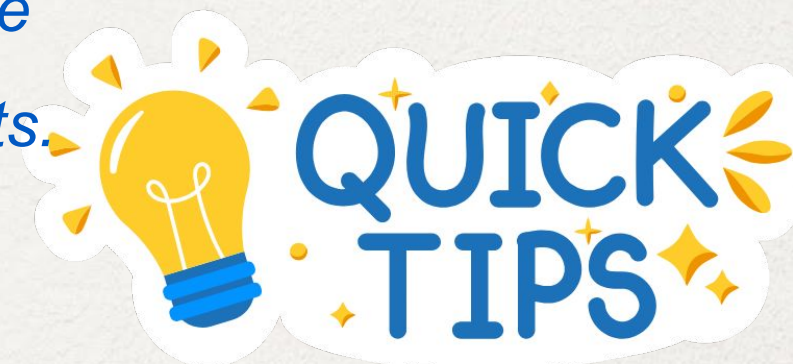


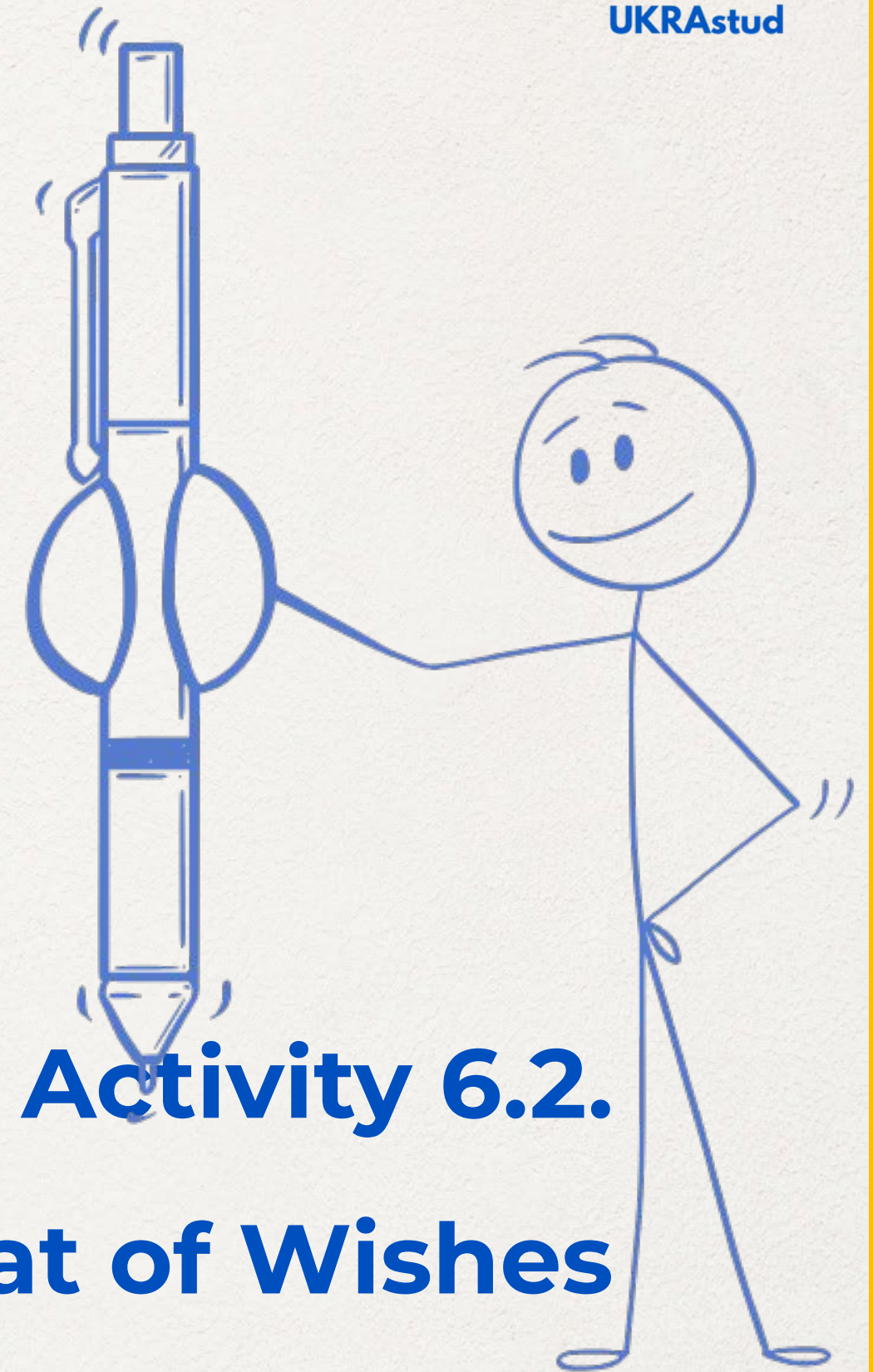
2. **Introduce** one structured peer-learning activity (work in pair)



3. **Provide** individual feedback that explicitly acknowledges effort.

Every supportive gesture contributes to a more inclusive and engaging experience for students.





Activity 6.2. Hat of Wishes



1. Each student writes a short wish or goal related to their studies or group inclusion on a piece of paper and puts it into a hat.

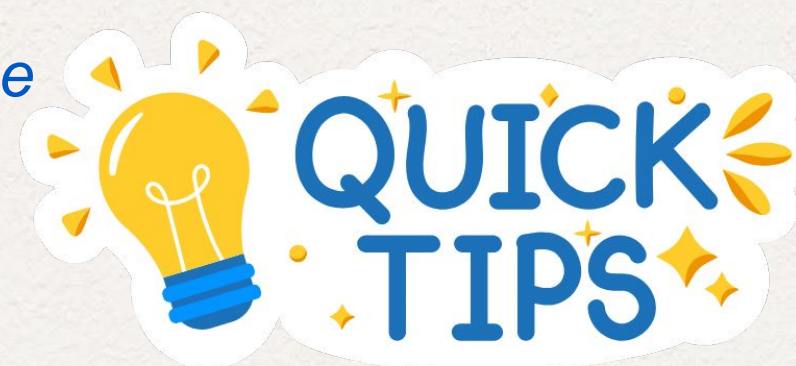


2. The tutor draws the notes and reads them aloud, while the group guesses who wrote each one.



3. **This activity** encourages mutual acquaintance, empathy, and meaningful conversation.

Try this at the start of a session to break the ice and set a positive, inclusive tone.



Thank you

Any Question?

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