

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 11

STORIES OF INCLUSION AND SUCCESS

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 real examples of successful inclusion of Ukrainian students
- Identify tutor behaviours that strengthen well-being and engagement
- Understand what research shows about conditions for academic success
- Discover practical strategies you can replicate in your own teaching

Why Inclusion Stories

Matter?


Success stories:

- Show what inclusion looks like in practice,
- Offer concrete models for tutors,
- Give students hope and orientation,
- Build a shared narrative of belonging.




Inclusion is built through small, consistent actions — not large reforms.





Story 1 & 2: Voice and Clarity



“I Finally Felt My Voice Mattered”

A Ukrainian student attended every seminar but rarely spoke. Her tutor noticed and said after class:

“Your perspective could really enrich this group. Next time, I’d like to hear from you.”

At the next seminar, the tutor introduced structured turn-taking so everyone had equal speaking time. When it was her turn, she spoke. The group listened. Someone built on her idea. From that moment, she began participating regularly.

Nothing about her changed — the space changed. It became safe.

“Clear Instructions Changed Everything”

A student received a disappointing grade on his first assignment. He later admitted: “I thought I understood what was expected, but I didn’t.”

The tutor redesigned the assignment using the TILT method: purpose-task-success criteria-example of quality work.

The result? Lower stress. Better performance. And the student said: “Now I feel more in control.” Sometimes academic success begins with clarity.

“A Peer Mentor Helped Me Find My Place”

When he arrived, everything felt unfamiliar — the system, the platforms, the culture. He was paired with a volunteer peer mentor. They met weekly for short check-ins about coursework, digital tools, and campus life. Within weeks, he joined a student organization and built friendships.

Integration didn't start with a policy. It started with one connection.

“A Small Act of Empathy Made a Big Difference”

During exam period, a tutor noticed a student seemed exhausted and overwhelmed. After class, he said: “If you'd like, we can go through your deadlines together.”

In 15 minutes, they created a simple weekly plan. Missed deadlines decreased. Stress reduced. The student later said: “I felt seen.” And feeling seen changes everything.



Story 3 & 4: Belonging and Empathy





What All Success Stories Have in Common?

Four recurring tutor behaviours:

- Noticing small signals
- Providing clarity
- Facilitating positive peer interaction
- Showing dignity and respect

Simple actions. Significant impact.

Practical Strategies Tutors Can Apply



- Use structured turn-taking in discussions
- Offer a 5-minute follow-up after first assignments
- Pair students with peer mentors
 - Use transparent grading rubrics
 - Check in early when students seem overwhelmed

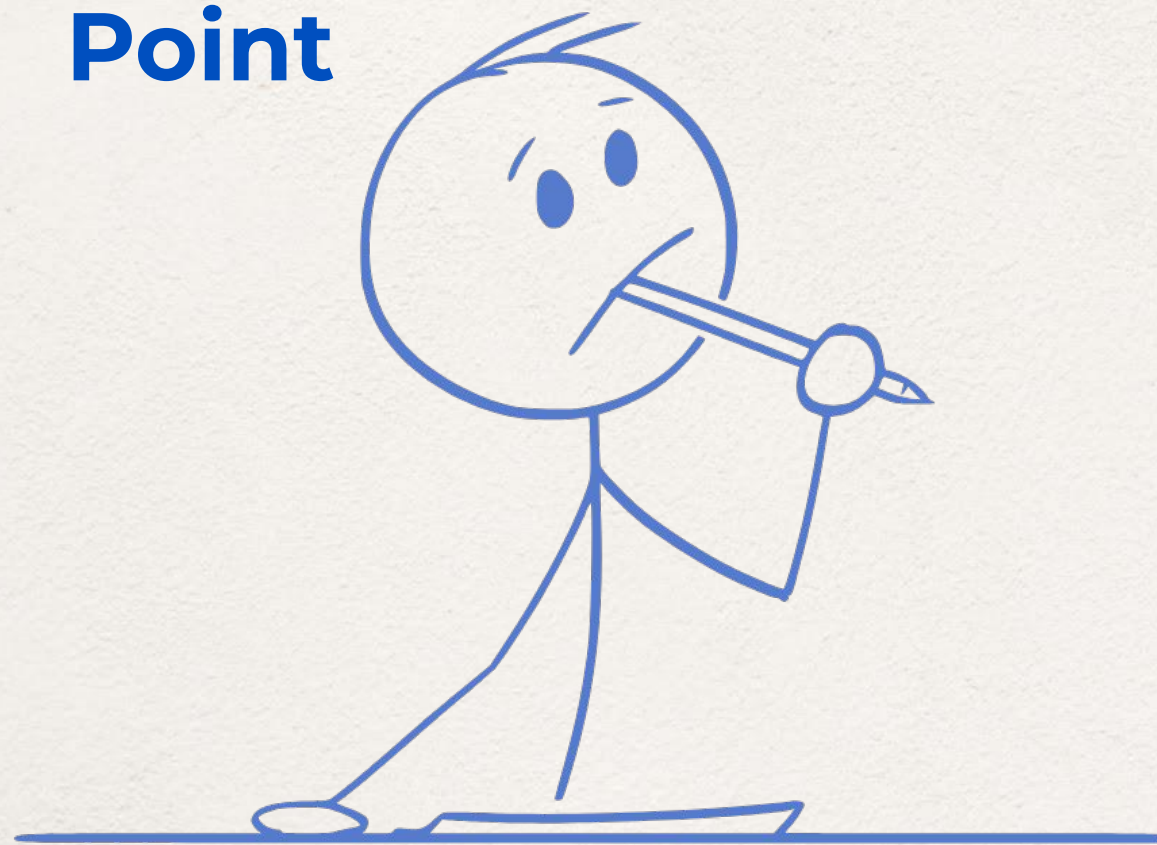
These strategies benefit all vulnerable learners.

Help realize how a small intervention can change a student's experience.

Activity 11.1.

Design a Turning

Point



1. Reflection

Think of one student who seems quiet, confused, or slightly disengaged.



2. Turning Point Design, Design one action for this student.

Examples: supportive sentence, structured participation, a short follow-up email, clearer assignment criteria, connecting the student with a peer mentor



3. Pair Share

Share your idea with other tutors. Collect feedback: "How might this increase belonging?"

Inclusion rarely begins with a program. It begins with one intentional decision.



Thank you

Any Question?

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