

## ACTIVITY 2

# Welcome to Advisory!

**Purpose:** Welcome advisees, introduce the advisor, and offer a brief explanation of the rationale of the advisory program.

**APPROXIMATE TIME:**

10 minutes

**MATERIALS:** NONE

## ADVISOR NOTES:

### 1. Create a Welcoming Space

Arrange the chairs or desks in a circle or arc before the start of the advisory meeting. Your introduction should feel inviting and be kept short so you can move on to one or more name games and community-building activities.

### 2. The Importance of Correct Pronunciation

An important step when creating a welcoming community is insisting on the correct pronunciation of everyone's name. If you struggle to pronounce an advisee's name correctly, spend a few minutes with them outside of the meeting to practice. They might feel uncomfortable having their name at the center of focus in the group, especially if they don't know the others well. It can help to write the advisee's name phonetically in your attendance book. Modeling correct pronunciation will set the tone and expectation for the group as a whole.

## PROCEDURE:

### 1. Greet Advisees at the Door

Welcome each advisee as they enter the room as you would a guest to your home. If you don't already know their names or nicknames, ask them to say the name they would like to be called and repeat it back to practice the pronunciation, and then introduce yourself.

### 2. Introduce Yourself Briefly to the Group

### 3. Provide a Simple Rationale for the Advisory Group

You might use or adapt one of the following examples of advisory rationales, or your school may develop a rationale that aligns with its mission:

- Advisory is meant to be a supportive place to help you do well in school, learn about yourself, support each other, and have good conversations about meaningful topics. Advisory isn't graded. We'll be together for two years. I'm glad that I'll have two years to get to know you and support you. (Applies to a single-grade group that loops for two years.)

- Our advisory group is your home base for the next four years. It's where we'll problem-solve about school issues, talk about topics in school and in the world, set goals for this week and the next ten years, and figure out how to achieve those goals. Advisory comes with a quarter credit, based mostly on participating well; we'll talk more about that later. We're going to see each other through thick and thin; I'm going to support you from now till you graduate. (Applies to a single-grade high school group that loops for four years.)
- Welcome to our new advisory group members! Our group has members from all grades so we can welcome you into our school culture. We're a supportive place, with no grades involved, for problem-solving and having good conversations about meaningful topics. I'm here as a facilitator for the group and an advocate for each of you. (Applies to a mixed-grade high school group that loops for four years.)