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Reconciliation Response & Self-Assessment

As an educator who is a settler on Indigenous land, I would always do plenty of research and seek to collaborate alongside members of the local Indigenous community before incorporating their culture, knowledge, and stories into my lessons. I would begin my research by exploring the local Indigenous group's website, if there is one available, to first educate myself through information presented by the group. Respectfully approaching the subject, I would then create an activity plan explaining the activity I hope to do with my students, and what aspects of Indigenous knowledge and culture I hope to teach through this activity. I would also create a list of questions I have regarding whether the activity would be culturally appropriate. Some questions I can think of are:

1. How can I effectively involve Indigenous voices in the project?
2. Is it appropriate for non-Indigenous students to create art using Indigenous art forms and styles?

If there were an Indigenous education space in my school, I would ask the Indigenous educators for their perspectives and ideas regarding my lesson plan, and ask whatever questions I might have added to my list. I would listen to and respect any advice or critique given to me. If my Indigenous colleagues approve of the activity, I would then reach out to the local Indigenous group through their website (or other forms of contact) to inquire about the activity and about the idea of working with a local Indigenous artist or artists from the group.

Regarding culturally appropriate reconciliation in the classroom, I believe this should always involve Indigenous voices. Whether this is through reading literature from Indigenous authors, watching videos and films created by Indigenous groups, or directly inviting Indigenous educators or elders into the classroom, Indigenous knowledge should always be taught from Indigenous perspectives and listened to with the utmost attention and respect.

Self Assessment

I believe I deserve a mark of 10/10 for my attention to the rubric and the effort of self-reflection I put into imagining how I would realistically approach this scenario. The article had a strong focus on putting the voices and needs of the Indigenous group first, and I truly believe this is how all activities regarding Indigenous education should be approached.