

# Teacher – What to Say After a Student Death

Simple, compassionate language to support students in difficult moments.

## **Opening a Class**

- “I want to take a moment to acknowledge the loss our community is experiencing.”
- “This may affect each of you differently, and that is completely okay.”
- “Support is available if you need it, and I’ll share those resources with you.”

## **If a Student Is Emotional**

- “It’s okay to feel however you’re feeling right now.”
- “You don’t have to talk, but I’m here if you need to.”
- “Would you like me to help connect you with someone who can support you further?”

## **If You Don’t Know What to Say**

- “I don’t have all the words, but I care about how you’re doing.”
- “This is difficult, and it’s okay that it feels that way.”

## **Balancing Class and Support**

- “We will continue with today’s class, but please know flexibility is available if you need it.”
- “If you need time or support, please reach out.”

## **TONE REMINDERS**

- Keep language simple and clear
- Be genuine—there is no perfect script

## GRIEF SUPPORT RESOURCE LIBRARY

- Allow silence and do not rush conversations
- Respect that everyone grieves differently

### **WHAT TO AVOID**

- Speculating about the situation
- Using graphic or sensational language
- Saying things like 'everything happens for a reason'
- Pressuring students to talk or process publicly

*Your presence, consistency, and care matter more than having perfect words.*