



Today I Will

Each morning a prompt goes on the board beginning “Today I will...”, and every student finishes it out loud with one small thing they can do by home time. You note two or three names as you go round, and ask those students the next morning how it went. It takes about four minutes with nothing to print, and being asked afterwards is what turns saying it into doing it. This is Volume One.

Before you start. Nobody has to explain a promise they did not keep, and “I didn’t” is a complete answer. Say so on the first morning, because a form that thinks it will be in trouble will promise nothing worth promising. Keep the prompts away from marks and deadlines where you can: the ones that work are about other people and about being slightly braver than usual.

What you need

Page	What it is	How many
Slides	How it works, then the five prompts, one to a morning (a separate download)	Nothing to print

How it works

Step	What happens	Slides
1	Put the morning’s prompt on the board before the students come in, and answer it yourself first so that nobody has to go first.	1 to 6
2	Go round the room. Each student finishes the sentence in a few words. A form of thirty takes about ninety seconds.	
3	Write down two or three names as you go, and ask those two or three how it went the next morning, before the new prompt goes up.	
4	When the ten are used up, the last slide asks students to bring you a prompt of their own.	7

Worth knowing

- The asking the next morning is what makes it work. A promise nobody comes back to is just a nice thing said at half past eight, and a form works that out inside a week.
- Expect the first week to be safe: tidy my desk, be on time. They get more interesting once the form has seen that nobody is in trouble for a promise they did not keep.

Five more prompts

1. Today I will do something without being asked.
2. Today I will say thank you to somebody who will not be expecting it.
3. Today I will finish something rather than start something new.
4. Today I will do one thing slowly and properly.
5. Today I will make sure that somebody is not left out.

Make sure you come back for Volume Two. Follow @thepastoralguide to hear when it lands.