A SHIFT FAILURE CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Bold Ambition Check-In

In early 2026, Shift Canada partnered with Nanos Research to launch the Bold Ambition Index, a first-of-its-kind national survey measuring how Canadians feel about boldness, risk-taking, and ambition. It connects directly to what your students explore in the five Shift Failure lessons: that taking risks and trying again after failure is a skill you build, not a trait you're born with.

THE NATIONAL FINDINGS SO FAR

81% of Canadians believe our ability to act with boldness and ambition at home is linked to our long-term prosperity as a country.

41% say bold thinking and risk-taking feel more like a core part of Canadian identity now than they did last year.

30% of young people say they're more willing to pursue ambitious goals — even with an uncertain outcome — than they were last year.

Time: 30–40 minutes | **Materials:** one device per student or pair, internet access

1 WARM-UP DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Share the national findings above with the class. Ask: do these numbers surprise you? Why or why not? Where do you see boldness and risk-taking show up in your own life?

2 TAKE THE QUIZ 10–15 MIN

Have each student (or pair) visit shiftcanada.org and take the Bold Ambition quiz to get their own personal Bold Ambition Score. Remind them there's no right score — it's a starting point for reflection, not a grade.

3 REFLECT 10 MIN

- What did your score tell you about how you handle risk and uncertainty?
- Think of a time you failed at something and tried again. How do you think that shaped your score?
- Was your score close to what you expected? What surprised you?
- What's one bold, ambitious goal you have — and one small risk you could take this month toward it?

4 SHARE OUT 5–10 MIN

Invite a few volunteers to share their score and one takeaway. As a class, chart the range of scores anonymously — and revisit it later in the year to see how it shifts as students complete more Shift Failure lessons.

5-8 ADAPTING FOR GRADES 5–8

Skip the national/economic framing. Focus reflection on personal risk-taking ("What's something that scared you to try? What happened?") and close with "one brave thing I want to try this year."

9-12 ADAPTING FOR GRADES 9–12

Extend the discussion to future plans, entrepreneurship, or career choices, and use the full set of national statistics to connect classroom risk-taking to the bigger picture.