

BULLYING AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

EIGHTH GRADE

LESSON 4

TITLE: What if...

PURPOSE: To explore the importance of focusing on similarities rather than differences.

OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to:

- understand the importance of accepting differences in order to create a peaceful environment.
- Understand and have respect and tolerance for cultural, ethnic and human diversity.

SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS: LA.8.1.6.1, 8.1.7.4, 8.2.2.2

STUDENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS AND STANDARDS: PS 4.1, 4.2, 4.4

VOCABULARY: include, exclude

INSTRUCTIONAL TIME: 45 Minutes

PREPARATION/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

- dry erase board and markers
- small dot stickers in a 6 different colors.

SPRINGBOARD ACTIVITY:

Lead a discussion on the following questions:

What if our school was like this...

Everybody wore the same clothes.

Everybody believed the same thing.

Everybody thought the same way.

Everybody treated each other the way they would like to be treated.

What if everybody was in our circle?

ACTIVITY:

1) Explain to the students that from now on, everyone will embrace differences. Divide students into groups by using colored dots. Assign each dot a different level of significance. For example, black is outstanding, blue is excellent, gray is good, red is average, and green is poor.

2) Have students discuss in the groups the reasons their group is so special. They can use the following questions to guide the discussion:

- What makes your group special?
- How did being in that group make you feel?
- If you were in a low rated group, how did you like that experience?
- What things did the other groups do or say that made you feel different?
- Do you think there are such groups in your school? At home? In society?
- Why do people categorize?
- Do you think people are judge with these labels by the way they look?

ASSESSMENT: Teacher observation, class participation and completion of activity.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY: Lead a whole class discussion by asking the following questions:

- What other categories do people use to judge or label others?
- What can be the result of treating people differently based on them being different?
- These differences could include race, sexual orientation, being popular or not popular.
- What can you do as individuals to make people feel welcomed and involved in your school?

Discuss: The important piece of the puzzle necessary to make everyone safe is to understand that although you might not have control over your feelings toward a situation, a person, or a thing, one thing you do have control over are your behavior and actions