



Bias, Bullying & Bystanders Video Lesson for Students

This lesson is designed to be provided after viewing the video. Its goals are to:

To help students begin to take responsibility for creating emotional safety in school

To help students identify places in the school where they feel safe or unsafe

Educator Guide Activity:

Identify where students may feel safe or unsafe:

Brainstorm with students a list on chart paper of all the places in the school that students go to or walk through. Make sure all of the different places in the school are included. Be sure to include walking to school, on the bus and at the bus stops.

After the list of places is identified, give your students a minute to look over the list and pick two to three places where they feel safe. Also, ask them to pick two to three places where they feel less safe or where they have heard name-calling, hurtful teasing or seen bullying. Tell them there may also be places where they feel safe sometimes and not others. Have them pick two or three of those as well.

While students are reviewing the list, add three columns to the chart: "Safe," "Unsafe" and "Sometimes Safe/Unsafe."

Allow students to go up to the chart and make tally marks in the appropriate columns.

Discussion:

After the chart is finished, ask your students the following question:

Which areas of the school have the most "Safe" tally marks? How about "Unsafe?"

What makes you or others feel safe in these areas? How about "Less Safe?"

What makes a place feel safe sometimes and less safe other times? What is different?

Note: If name-calling such as "That's so gay" comes up, ask the students what is meant by this. Find out what the intention was. Explain that "gay" is a word that describes individuals or a group of people. Define the words "gay" and "queer" if students have mentioned them. Explain that when you use that word to mean something bad or stupid, not only does it hurt the feelings of the student who is taunted with the word "gay," but it hurts the feelings of anyone who is gay or who may have a parent, relative or friend who is gay, because it implies that "gay" is bad. Remind students that at your school, everyone deserves to be safe, valued and respected.

*Adapted from the Welcoming Schools Starter Kit