



Connect with Kids

WebSource

For the Classroom

Civil Wars

Discussion Questions – Segment 5

1. In this segment, what did Michelle say helped her to change her uncivil behavior?
2. What are others' expectations of you? What do you expect from yourself?
3. What can you and your classmates do to promote civility at school?

Activity

This Is An Example Of...

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to...

- Conclude reasons for group membership.
- Identify examples of conflict among groups.
- Examine reasons for conflict among groups.
- Suggest alternatives to group conflict.

MATERIALS

- Pens, pencils
- *This Is An Example Of ...* Worksheet

PROCEDURE

1. Present the following scenario to the class: *Miguel is new to America. His parents have enrolled him in your school. On Miguel's first day of school, he doesn't speak to anyone. On his second day of school, Miguel meets other Hispanic students. By the end of Miguel's first week of school, he has made mostly Hispanic friends and speaks only Spanish. When he is in a class with no other Hispanic students, Miguel sits without saying a word. Soon, other students start making fun of Miguel because of the group he belongs to and the way he dresses.*

2. Discuss Miguel's situation by asking your students the following questions:

- *Has Miguel made a successful transition to the American way of life?*

Explain.

- *Do you think Miguel's classmates treat him civilly when they tease him? Explain.*
- *Do you think that Miguel is satisfied with his daily school experience? Explain.*
- *What can Miguel do to make his daily school experience more enjoyable?*
- *What can you do to help make Miguel's daily school experience more enjoyable?*

3. Continue with a discussion about cultural diversity, incivility and groups:

- *Have you ever noticed that when a new student comes to your school, he or she will usually be attracted to a group that includes students who are similar to him or her? Why do you think this is?*

- *What are some examples of different types of groups?*

NOTE: Students' answers should include religious, political, social and cultural groups.

- *What are some advantages of belonging to a group?*

NOTE: Students' answers should include a feeling of belonging, superiority, a sense of identity, and recognition by others inside and outside of the group.

- *What are some disadvantages of belonging to a group?*

NOTE: Students' answers should include stereotyping by others, internal/external group conflict, etc.

4. Distribute the *This Is An Example Of ...* worksheet. Explain to your students that they will examine causes for belonging to a group and conflict that exists between groups. Then, they will suggest ways to avoid conflict between and within groups and ways to promote civility among groups.

5. Allow students to work in groups of three or four to complete the *This Is an Example of ...* worksheet.

6. After students have completed their worksheets, allow time for groups to share their answers and their suggestions with the class.

This Is An Example Of...

DIRECTIONS:

Your group will work together to read each scenario and discuss the examples listed below. If a scenario matches one of the examples, write the number of the example next to the scenario. More than one example may represent each scenario.

SCENARIOS:

1. Ajani has been friends with Aman and Ade since their families moved from Africa three years ago. The boys enjoy going to the mall and watching movies together. When they go to the mall, they eat pizza and buy their clothes at the most popular stores.

This is an example of:

2. Jun, Shen and Lian have been a part of a group since the third grade. Lately, they have noticed that other members of their group have been acting differently toward them. The trio has not been invited to parties or to the movies when the others go.

This is an example of:

3. Emilio's friends have been fighting with Alek and his friends since the beginning of the year. It all started when one of Alek's friends made a negative comment about Italian immigrants.

This is an example of:

4. Dalia and Elijah were asked to attend a Christmas party with their friends from school, but they decided to go to a Hanukah celebration instead.

This is an example of:

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF ...

1. Members of a group experiencing personal advantage (companionship, sense of identity, recognition by others inside and outside of the group).
2. Members of a group experiencing a feeling of superiority.
3. Members of a group experiencing feelings of hostility and incivility toward another group.
4. Members of a group being treated as if they were all the same.
5. Members of a group being influenced by their culture and customs.

6. Members of a group being part of a subculture within the group.

SUGGESTIONS:

Based on your responses above, work with your group to answer the following questions:

What are some ways in which you can avoid conflict between and within groups?

What are some ways in which you can promote civility among groups?
