

Keeping it Real: “Lessons in Compassion”

Follow-up to Jesse Saperstein Assembly on Anti-Bullying



Lesson & Video #4: “Blaming the victim”

Click this link or paste the address into your web browser:

<https://vimeo.com/74287080>

Highlights:

- Sometimes bullies choose their victims based on harmless things that make them stand out as “different.”
- People sometimes say that kids bring bullying on themselves when they do things that might draw unwanted attention from others.

Connection (3 min.):

- Remind students Jesse’s assembly and its anti-bullying message and the last video
- Introduce the concepts of this “Minutes for Compassion” lessons and refer to chart

Video & Discussion (12 min.)

- Show “Minute for Compassion” video #4
- Facilitate discussion:

Options:

1. Share general reactions to video
2. Explore the lesson quote: “don’t blame the victim”
3. Respond to Jesse’s discussion questions:
 - *What should someone who is bullied should do (Change who they are/something about themselves to avoid being bullied? Or continue being who they are and address the bullying differently?)*
 - *How would you attempt to reach out to the student who is bullied?*
 - *What would you say to someone who argued that being bullied is just part of being a kid?*

Activity: (5 min.) Role-play

- **PREFACE:** *This is an incredibly sensitive activity. Measures must be taken to ensure that ALL students understand that this is pretend. During these role-plays students cannot use physical bullying or aggression and should not use any additional personal information about the students playing the “victims” in the bullying scenarios. The scenarios are designed to explore this topic in as light a manner as is possible. Students must understand these boundaries before participating. Teachers should also take care in guiding who takes on the roles of the bullies and the victims.*
- Break the students up into groups of four. Two students will play the roles of the “bullies” and the other two will start as the “victims.”
- Have the students create 1-2 min. role-plays of one of the following scenarios (teachers choose scenario/s that are in NO WAY representative of the students in your class):
 - Victims are being bullied for making up their own language, which they speak to each other in during lunch for fun
 - Victims are being bullied for “high-fiving” all of the time (something the bullies think is no longer is cool)

Wrap-up (10 min.): Reflection

- Closing thoughts on blaming the victim based on the role-plays
- Add “don’t blame the victim” to “Lessons in Compassion” chart