

Cyberbullying Discussion Starters

Time needed: 5 - 10 minutes

Recommended Level: Grade 5-8

Categories: Cyberbullying, Empowering, Helping victims, Role-playing

Common Core Standard(s): Speaking & Listening

Purpose: Students will discuss bullying scenarios in an activity that can be revisited throughout the year.

This is an activity that can be returned to throughout the year. The teacher will want to find a container that will hold a dozen slips of paper. Ideally the container would be transparent (although not necessarily glass for safety purposes).

Fill the container with prompts that will be used to start discussions around cyberbullying. During lapses in class activity or as an end of the period activity, have a student select a slip from the jar and open up the discussion. One student could respond or you may have a panel participate before opening to a whole class discussion. Some prompts will lend themselves to having speakers from different viewpoints.

DISCUSSION:

Before the lesson, find a container that can hold a dozen or so slips of paper. Fill the container with the three examples listed here. Explain to students that at various times, you will pull a scenario from the container and the class will discuss it.

ACTIVITY:

Pull out one of the scenarios from the container and discuss it as a class.

SCENARIOS:

#1: You and a friend have had a disagreement and he or she is now forwarding some embarrassing pictures you took using his/her cell phone the weekend before. What's going on and how can you handle it?

#2: There is a new kid in your school but he is not in your class. You post on Facebook that you wonder who he is and where he came from. One of your friends who is in his class comments on your post. The comment is unkind. How would you handle it?

#3: Your parents don't let you text so you haven't been doing so, but you know that kids are forwarding quite a few texts about one of the kids in your school. Could someone say that you are involved? What do you do?

Repeat until you have covered the three scenarios.

Have students write their own scenarios to include in the container. The students can even use situations that are happening or have happened to them, as long as they don't use real names.

FOLLOW-UP:

Students might opt to respond to a prompt or summarize a discussion in different ways: create a comic, write a song, design a poster, etc.

Continue to revisit the container throughout the school year.



Helping Everyone with Anti-Bullying,
Respect & Tolerance