

# Friendships Group or Clique?

**Time needed:** 30 minutes over 2 class periods

**Recommended Level:** Grade 5-8

**Categories:** Defining, Friendship issues

**Common Core Standard(s):** Speaking & Listening,  
Reading informational text

**Purpose:** Students will identify the difference between  
a friend group and a clique.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Day One

Teacher will introduce the term "friendship group." A friendship group is a group of people that bond or become friends over common similarities.

Teacher will model who is in his/her friendship group by writing a list of names of friends on the board. The teacher will also identify what similarities he/she has with his/her friendship group.

## **ACTIVITY:**

Activity:

Day One

Students will each create a list of people in their "friendship group." They will also identify what similarities they have with their group.

Students will be placed into small groups (4 to 5 students) to share their lists and similarities.

Each group will be given an object to be considered their "talking stick" for the activity. They are allowed to share their list and similarities only when they have this stick.

## **FOLLOW-UP:**

Day One

Class will move back into whole group instruction after meeting with small groups.

Teacher will reiterate the meaning of "friendship groups". The class will focus on the meaning of "cliques" the following day.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Day Two

The teacher will introduce the term "clique." A clique is a friendship group that often exerts control over its members or purposefully excludes other students.

The teacher will ask the students if they believe there are cliques at our school.

## **ACTIVITY:**

Day Two

The group will compile a list of possible cliques and characteristics of each one. (Jocks, Preps, Goths, etc.)

Discuss how these cliques can have positive characteristics and list some. It's only when they exclude others that it's considered negative.



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Students will get back into yesterday's small groups that discussed "friendship groups." Today the focus will be on "cliques."

Each student will have an opportunity to share with their talking stick about a time they felt excluded from a group. (What happened? How did it feel? Did this make you treat others differently?)

**FOLLOW-UP:**

Day Two

Teacher will bring the class back together as whole group and do final comparisons of friendship groups vs. cliques.

Allow the students a short time to self-reflect and decide if they belong to a friendship group or clique and why. They can write it on a piece of paper and turn in.



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*Duplication and distribution of this lesson plan is permitted and encouraged.*

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