

Friendships & Cliques

Time needed: 20 - 30 minutes

Recommended Level: Grade 5-8

Categories: Friendship issues

Common Core Standard(s): ELA: Writing to convey information, Speaking & Listening

Purpose: Students will compare and contrast friendships and cliques and will learn how to avoid the negative aspects of cliques.

DISCUSSION:

Ask students to define two terms: friendship and clique. Write their definitions on the board as they brainstorm definitions. Tell the students that there are many similarities between friendships and cliques. What are some of the differences? How can these types of relationships turn into bullying situations? Explain to the students that you will make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two types of relationships.

ACTIVITY:

Ask students to make a Venn diagram; model on the board for them. Label the circles 'Friendships' and 'Cliques'. Write descriptions of each and put them in the appropriate space on the Venn diagram. Possible responses:

Friendships - relationships built on mutual respect; friends choose each other; you can be friends with anyone; you can have just 2 people who are friends and/or large groups of friends.

Cliques - exclusive in nature; some people want to belong but can't/don't; group members decide who is "in" the group and who is not.

Both (middle where the 2 circles intersect) - like to hang out and do things together; mutual interests; have the possibility of being healthy, functioning relationships.

Once the diagram is complete, ask students why bullying can sometimes be a result of cliques (exclusivity, "strength/power in numbers.") Do all cliques bully? No. Explain to students that the best kinds of relationships fall within the first 2 categories on the Venn diagram: the 'Friendships' circle and the circle intersection where characteristics of both are listed. Discuss reasons why being part of an exclusive clique can present problems (encouraged to be mean; judging others by deciding who is "in" and who is "out.")

FOLLOW-UP:

Ask the students to write a reflection about their relationships. Are they involved in more friendships, or more clique relationships? Are there any negative aspects of cliques that they are involved in, and perhaps might want to change? Have they been impacted, either positively or negatively, by a friendship or clique relationship?



Helping Everyone with Anti-Bullying,
Respect & Tolerance

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