

Handling Drama in Friendships

Time needed: 30 minutes

Recommended Level: Grade 5-8

Categories: Diversity, Friendship issues, Tolerance

Common Core Standards: Speaking & Listening, Writing to convey information, Understanding perspectives & culture

Purpose: Students will realize differences in their friendships, observe others' likes and dislikes while learning how they can get along, and will recognize that differences can cause arguments.

DISCUSSION:

Ask students to join you in a discussion circle. Ask another teacher (or two students who are friends) to role play with you showing common interests and differences (or likes and dislikes.) On the chalkboard or smart board, create a Venn diagram showing likes, dislikes, and common interests. Ask students if they have ever gotten into an argument with someone because of different likes or dislikes, or because they were different. Ask students to define the terms "compromise" and "common ground." Explain that the teachers (or students) can get along even though they may not like all the same things or think the same way about everything. Compromise and common ground can help people avoid arguments.

ACTIVITY:

Assign students to pairs. (For this activity, allowing students to work with a friend may be helpful.)

Give each pair a Venn Diagram (pre-printed on a piece of paper.) (Older students may create their own.)

Have students fill out their Venn diagrams with likes, dislikes, and common interests. Each student will have his/her own Venn diagram so the diagram is personalized, yet opposite from his/her partner. (For example, if Billy and Susie are partners, and Billy likes radishes and Susie does not, Billy would list radishes under his "likes", but Susie would list it under her "dislikes.")

Give students time to discuss their Venn diagrams. Have them discuss common interests to see how they can relate to each other.

FOLLOW-UP:

Have students join back together and share what they learned about their partners that they didn't know before the activity. Have them share some items they have in common. Ask the students how the idea of common ground could help in the future. Explain that this is a life-long lesson that adults use to help avoid arguments. Explain that this shows communication and sharing between both people.



Helping Everyone with Anti-Bullying,
Respect & Tolerance