Manners Matter

Time needed: Three 40 minute class periods

Recommended Level: All grades

Categories: Friendship issues, Tolerance

Common Core Standard (s): Writing, Speaking & Listening

Purpose: Students will model how to treat other human beings.

DISCUSSION:

Brainstorm manners with the class. What are some examples of good manners? (Please, thank you, excuse me, holding the door open for others, eating with your mouth closed. The list could go on and on and would be unique to each school and culture).

Explain to students that they will be presenting good manners to their peers. This could be accomplished in several ways: 1) As a school-wide activity, each classroom could be assigned a good manner on a rotating basis. 2) As a class, assign a good manner to each student or a group of students. (This activity is presented in the class format).

ACTIVITY:

DAY 1:

Divide the class/school into groups. Assign a chosen good manner to each group. Have the groups begin working. Each group will demonstrate its good manner based on its interest or skill level. For example, each group can write a jingle, poem, rap, skit, etc.

DAY 2:

Have the groups continue to work.

DAY 3:

Have the groups present their examples of good manners to the class/school.

FOLLOW-UP:

Each group will "perform" its chosen example of a good manner.

Discuss each presentation as it is presented.

Recognize students who are showing this particular skill by giving an award such as "Caught Doing Good." Student names could be placed in a box. A drawing at the end of each week/month could determine a reward. Names of students could be read over the intercom or at an assembly.

