

Your Choice...Your Action...Your Life Words Can Hurt!

Grade Level(s): K-8

Focus: Name Calling - Our name is important to us and no one likes to be put down by words/labels that make us feel bad.

Goal: Students will reflect on and discuss feelings when name calling is a put down and will begin a plan to only use terms that will build up others.

Materials: “Words Can Hurt” PSA, paper, crayons, markers, or colored pencils, brown bags optional.

Discussion:

Set discussion rules for your classroom. Use the following questions that are appropriate for your students.

- How does it make you feel when someone remembers your name?
- Why is our name so important to us?
- Did anyone ever call you a name that was not nice?
How did that make you feel?



Activity:

K	VS K.F.3.1	Create artwork that communicates an awareness of self as part of the community.
1.	VA.1.O.3.1:	Use personal symbols in artwork to document surroundings and community.

2. VA.2.C.1.1: Use the art-making process to communicate personal interests and self-expression.
3. VA.3.C.1.1: Use the art-making process to develop ideas for self-expression.
4. VA.4.C.1.1: Integrate ideas during the art-making process to convey meaning in personal works of art.

Create a bulletin board to celebrate everyone's name.

For younger students the teacher can put their names on brown bags. Then students can decorate the bags with stickers and crayons. These can be stapled on the bulletin board where compliments, treats, etc. can be placed into the bags by the teacher or other students.

5. VA.5.C.2.2: Analyze personal artworks to articulate the motivations and intentions in creating personal works of art.

6-8 VA.68.C.1.1: Apply a range of interests and contextual connections to influence the art-making and self-reflection processes.

Create an "Honor Your Name" bulletin board. Distribute a sheet of 8 ½" x 11" paper to each student. Give them time to write their name in large block letters on the paper. They can then color and decorate their name with their favorite colors, symbols of sports and hobbies cut from magazines (collage), etc. Make a bulletin board of all the names and express the importance of using the names we were given and never hurt someone with put-down name calling. Have students explain what the decorations symbolize about them.

Alternative Activity:

Give everyone three small slips of paper. After the discussion above, ask students to write down three names that they never want to be called. Go around and collect all the papers in a basket. Draw out the papers and make a list for the classroom of names that no one should ever be called. (By collecting the papers the teacher can edit the list in case some words/names were written that would not be appropriate for the classroom. This also gives the teacher the opportunity to add word/names if necessary.)