

South Dakota Teachers as Advisors Lesson Plan

Harassment

Grade Level	12 th Grade
Goal/Objective	Students will be able to recognize harassment; become familiar with the school policy regarding harassment; and learn how to report incidences of harassment.
Minimum Time Required	
Materials/Resources	White board or chalkboard “What is Harassment” handout (attached) Written document containing school’s policy on harassment

Step by Step Instructions:

1. Write the word “harassment” on the board. Say to the students, “When you hear the word harassment, what words, phrases or images come to mind?”
2. Define harassment for the students on the board or overhead.
 - Harassment is any inappropriate, unwanted, or cruel behavior that targets a particular individual or group.
 - Bullying is a form of harassment when someone repeatedly and over time targets another person.
3. Lead the students through a brainstorming of examples of various types of harassment.
4. Discuss the effects of harassment. Begin by asking, “How do students feel when they experience or witness harassment?” and “How does harassment affect the school environment?” Refer to the handout (attached).
5. Referring to your school handbook/policy, clarify school policies and procedures on harassment. Explain to students what they should do if they witness or are the subject of harassing behaviors.
6. Mention to students that post-secondary schools they may plan to attend as well as most employers, the military, etc. they may be involved with in the future also have policies on harassment. Explain that while policies may vary somewhat, they are in place to protect individuals from inappropriate, unwanted, or cruel behavior. Encourage students to remember to familiarize themselves with such policies in whatever future school or workplace environment they may be involved in so that they are aware what action to take should they ever be harassed.

Evaluation of Activity for Continued Success:

Domain/Standard	Personal & Social Development
Academic Standards	
Math	
Employability/SCANS Skills	
Assessment Rubric	
Credits for sources:	<p>“What is Harassment” handout from The Advisory Guide by Rachel A. Poliner and Carol Miller Lieber (permission is granted to copy handouts).</p>

What is Harassment?

- Harassment is any inappropriate, unwanted, or cruel behavior that targets a particular individual or group
- To harass is to physically or verbally hurt, aggravate, frighten, tease, taunt, threaten, or insult a targeted group or individual
- Harassment can include behaviors like spreading rumors, gossip, using social exclusion, and sometimes stalking. Harassment makes both targets and bystanders feel uncomfortable, embarrassed, isolated, and angry.
- Harassment is sometimes an act of discrimination based on prejudice
- Harassment is mean, harmful, illegal, and doesn't belong in schools or anywhere else
- In addition, harassment often leads to bullying. A person is bullied when she or he is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to the negative actions of one or more people. Bullies use their power or strength to dominate, intimidate, or attack the targeted person physically or verbally. Bullying behavior can include pressuring someone repeatedly to do something that she or he doesn't really want to do. The student who is being bullied may feel she or he has no power to stop the bully
- If someone is doing or saying something to you that leads you to feel unsafe, uncomfortable, or embarrassed, it's probably harassment.
- Even if someone is "just joking", no one has the right to say things that make you feel targeted (singled out). No one has the right to touch you unless you say it's OK.
- You have the right and a responsibility to tell students to stop the harassing behavior or to report the behavior to a teacher, counselor, your parents, or in some cases, to legal authorities.

Types of Harassment

- Racial or ethnic harassment includes attacks or negative comments associated with someone's skin color, ethnicity, native language, or national origin
- Size-ist harassment means taunting someone because of their height or weight
- Look-ist harassment includes attacks based on someone's looks. For example, calling someone ugly, a dog, or grease ball.
- Class-ist or social group harassment includes targeting someone based on how much money or possessions they or their family have or don't have; targeting someone because of their association with a particular social group; or a social group of "losers".
- Sexual harassment includes unwanted, unwelcome sexual comments or actions that target an individual or group and/or make spectators uncomfortable, unwanted touching, gestures, sexually-based insults; sexual rumor spreading; staring; unwanted "compliments" that have a sexual reference. Sexually harassing comments can be spoken or written, using graffiti, slams, pagers, cell phones, or the Internet.
- Sexual orientation harassment includes antigay, antibisexual, ant lesbian attacks. Examples include calling someone a "fag" or "lesbo" or calling something you don't like "gay" or "queer"
- Religious harassment includes attacks on someone's religious beliefs, practices, or group
- Abel-ist harassment includes insulting a person based on a real or assumed physical or mental disability. Examples include habitually calling someone "retard", "dummy", or "stupid" or insulting them because they use crutches, a hearing aid, glasses, or a seeing-eye dog.

Effects of Harassment

The target of harassment may

- Feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or threatened;
- Fear of going to school and feel that school is unsafe;
- Avoid going to school;
- Have lowered self-esteem;
- Be depressed;
- Do poorly in school;
- Feel isolated;
- Start to withdrawal from friends, family, or normal activities
- Feel angry and powerless;
- Seek revenge, retaliate with violence.