

# **Bullying Selfish, and Self-Centered vs. Respectable, Introspective, and Ethical**

## **What Kind of Person Would You Like to Be?**

### **Purpose:**

To educate students on Bullying and Honorable behavior.

### **Questions:**

When you hear the term, Bullying, do you think about yourself or others?

Why should we treat everyone with respect and human dignity?

### **Definitions:**

#### **Bullying:**

Behavior that includes such acts as intimidation and/or harassment that injures a person, or by placing someone in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property.

#### **Key Indicators of Bullying:**

There is a clear imbalance of power. The action causes physical or emotional injury. The action is sufficiently severe, and is persistent over time.

#### **Actions and Behaviors that are Wrong, but may not be Bullying:**

Name calling; Annoying; Ignoring; Unkindness; Lying; Ostracizing; Unfriendliness; Bragging, being Rude; or any two-sided conflict. **These actions are all still wrong, and may result in disciplinary action.**

**Advice for Success:** *There is strength to helping other and in being successful by being aware, informed, and resilient enough to withstand bullying, unsavory behavior, and being easily offended. This can be very hard to do, and can take time to develop. It's worth it.*

**Important to Remember:** If someone actively participates in a two-sided conflict, and ends up losing or injured by a stronger person or side, this would not be a clear example of bullying.

### **"Why Should I Care About This?"**

Every day at school, staff and students have the opportunity, through typical and various social interactions, to display acts of honorable behavior, or to take part in Bullying and other forms of unsavory behavior.

A Bully looks for opportunities to hurt others through physical or emotional injury.

An indifferent Follower is someone who doesn't mind it when other people are getting hurt, as long as they don't get hurt themselves. In this context, it's the kind of person who most people don't want as a friend because of trust issues.

A Victim is someone who is has being injured or has been injured.

Having Honorable Behavior includes standing up for those who are being treated unkindly or are potential victims of bullying. It demonstrates courage and genuine concern for other people.

To 'Stand-With' someone means to support them in preserving their human and civil rights. It doesn't necessarily mean that you agree with them, or are making a judgement on if they are innocent or guilty.

*Insert Video Here*

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The meaning of to 'Stand-With' someone could be applied in a metaphorical sense, or in some cases be quite literal. What are examples of standing-with someone? Metaphorically and Literally.

**Answer:** One metaphorical way to 'Stand-With' someone is to not spread gossip about others or not to appear happy when someone is being verbally attacked behind their back. A literal example could be of someone standing alone while everyone else are in small groups. Or, it could mean if you have a peer who has to walk past a group of threatening people, perhaps a school hallway, that you walk with that person and in-between the group and your peer.

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If we are a third-party bystander in witnessing bullying, or other unsavory actions, is it our responsibility to get involved? Why?

**Answer:** Yes. If you see, hear, or are aware of a group, or a person, who is in the process of injuring someone else you should do something. If possible, be a peacemaker. Intervene and do something. Don't allow someone to be the judge, jury, and executioner of punishment to someone else. Don't laugh at inappropriate things that promote this, or an imbalance of power. If you are at risk of being injured by intervening in an incident such as bullying, take steps to tell someone who may be able to intervene, such as the Principal. Failure to do this is not brave or honorable. Failure to do this actually can make you a 'Follower', 'Victim', or an enabler to bullying or unsavory behavior.

The things that set humans apart from all other species on earth is our ability to have empathy and to use rationale thought.

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What are some hypothetical examples of what a bystander can do if a person is being attacked at different locations in our schools or in other adjacent places (buses, other school sites, etc.)?

Why?

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What should a bystander do if they hear of someone secretly planning to injure others? An example could be a peer planning some kind of an attack on a school.

Why?

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How would 'Followers' in a social incident, such as a physical attack, possibly justify their actions and why is their logic flawed?

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Why should someone 'stand-with' a peer who is being treated poorly? Answers may include when others are being bullied, ostracized, surrounded, teased, or any other forms of unsavory behavior that you can think of.

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What are examples of a participatory conflict (2-sided), that could result in the loser or most offended side using?

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Poem by Pastor, Martin Niemoller

First They Came

First they came for the Communists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me.

What is the concept that this poem is trying to illustrate?

DRAFT