

## Lesson 2



**Area:** Show Respect

**Title:** I've Got An Idea

**Objective:** Students will be provided an experience in having the ideas ignored, rejected, or disrespected by an authority figure.

**Materials:** Paper  
Writing Utensils

**Activity:**

1. Give the following prompt\*: "There has been some discussion about allowing students to have food, gum and beverages in classes. I'd like your ideas about this and how it might work. Please take about a minute and write down on paper any suggestions or ideas you have that would make this work. Do not put your names on the paper." \*Note: The teacher may change the prompt statement as applicable.
2. Collect the papers and mix to keep anonymous.
3. Read each idea and is reject it with a strong comment such as: "That is one of the worst ideas I have heard." "No way." "Totally unworkable." "Ridiculous." "I cannot believe this."
4. After the students finish hearing the teacher's critique, the teacher asks, "What do you think of how I handled that?" After the students have heard the critique. Listen to student responses.
5. End the exercise by saying, "If I were you, I would feel bad because I treated your ideas in a disrespectful way. This whole discussion was an experiment to help you understand how it feels to have your ideas or work rejected."

**Closure:** Discuss the following questions:

1. "How do you feel when someone rejects your ideas?"
2. "What is it like to put be put down or made fun of for your work or ideas?"
3. "Schools are where people come to learn. Is it ever okay to disrespect the ideas of others?"
4. "Does it only hurt if adults reject your ideas?"
5. "Is it possible to respectfully disagree?"
6. "What are respectful ways to disagree? Why is this important in schools?"