

Lesson 4



Area: Show Respect

Title: Dear Abby Letter

Objective: Students will learn to be able to respond to peers in a respectful way.

Materials: “Dear Abby” articles
“Dear Abby” Problem Solving Strategy Sheet
Board or Overhead
Paper and Writing Utensils

Activity: *Day One*

1. Hand out “Dear Abby” example sheet.
2. Direct a large group discussion on giving advice to your peers in a respectful manner. Give each group an example to think about (i.e. “Your friend comes to you and says ‘someone stole my favorite pen.’”) Go through questions guiding the students through examples of each.
 - What is a respectful response?
 - What is helpful versus hurtful?
 - What is necessary versus unnecessary?
3. Lead students in generating their own Dear Abby letters. Ask them to sign the letter with a fake name, just as people do when writing to Abby.
4. Facilitate the exchange of letters with another homebase/advisory classroom.

Day Two

1. Hand out Dear Abby letters written by students in another homebase/advisory classroom. Ask students to respond to the Dear Abby Letter by following the steps listed on the “Dear Abby Problem Solving Strategy Sheet.
2. Collect student responses.
3. Look over student responses for any inappropriate comments.
4. Return responses to the other homebase.

Closure: Ask the following questions (This may need to occur on Day Three.)

“Was the response to your letter appropriate? Respectful?”

“Would you be able to use the advice that was sent back to you?”

“Do you feel you gave appropriate, respectful advice to another student in response to their letter?”



“Dear Abby” Problem Solving Strategy

Directions: Use the following steps when responding to student letter in the lesson “Dear Abby”.

“Dear Abby” Problem Solving Strategy

- 1. Focus on the PROBLEM... not the person.**
- 2. Restate the problem CAREFULLY.**
- 3. Use RESPECTFUL tone.**
- 4. STICK to the POINT.**
- 5. Be REASONABLE and EMPATHETIC.**