

Lesson 24



Area: Don't Gossip

Title: **Fact or Fiction?**

Objective: Students will recognize gossip situations and act in ways to minimize the damaging effects.

Materials: "Fact or Fiction?" Scenario Sheet
Board or overhead

- Activity:**
1. Divide students into groups of 3 to 5 students.
 2. Give each group one of the scenarios from the "Fact or Fiction?" scenario sheet.
 3. Allow each group five minutes to read their scenario and answer the following questions (it might be helpful to post the question on the board or overhead).
 - How could the problem have escalated (gotten even worse)?
 - How could the problem have been stopped or prevented?
 - What was the original cause of the problem?
 5. Ask each group to report back to the large group by reading the scenario and their responses.
 6. Give the class an opportunity to respond to each scenario with their own thoughts.

Closure: Discuss the following questions:

1. "What did you learn about how gossip spreads?"
2. "Why do you think students contribute to gossip?"
3. "What are the harmful effects of gossip?"
4. "How does gossip cause damage to one's reputation?"



Fact or Fiction? Scenario Sheet

Directions: Cut out the following scenarios on the dotted line. For use with the lesson “Fact or Fiction?”

1. You say that Luke called Ryan a “nerd”. Ryan now wants to beat up Luke.
2. Two girls are over heard talking about seeing Laura holding hands with Jake, but everybody knows Laura is going out with Mark. Now, Mark wants to break up with Laura and is calling her rude names.
3. Many students observed the police with a dog sniffing at students’ lockers. Kyle was later seen going to the principal’s office and now students are talking about him having drugs in his locker.
4. Jacob lost his CD player, which he thought he left in his locker. Now, Mike is using one just like it. Jacob is pretty sure it is his and tells his buddies that Mike is the thief.
5. Leeann has been missing from school for three days. She came back today with a fading bruise on her cheek. Students in her homeroom were heard talking about her bad family and that she is now in a children’s shelter.
6. Brittany got 100 on the social studies test. Everyone in her class knows she has never received better than a “C” before on a test. Brittany supposedly told her locker partner that she found the answers to the test on the teacher’s desk the day before.