

# Lesson 32



**Area:** Be Agreeable

**Title:** **Reaching Consensus**

**Objective:** Students will learn how to reach consensus.

**Materials:** Board or Overhead  
Journal  
Copy of the Student Handbook

**Activity:**

1. Before students arrive, locate the page number of the school dress code in the Student Handbook.
2. On the board or overhead, list the following five steps to consensus-building:
  - Step One: Define the problem or issue in concrete terms.
  - Step Two: Brainstorm solutions.
  - Step Three: Discuss solutions.
  - Step Four: Reach consensus.
  - Step Five: Evaluate the decision.

As a class, define and explain the term “Consensus Building” with the class. (Ask who knows or can explain what it means.) Consensus-building is when a group comes to an agreement/decision even if it is no one’s first choice.

3. Ask for a student volunteer to read aloud the segment of the student handbook regarding the school dress code. Encourage a 3-5 minute discussion on this topic. Try to identify student concerns or disagreements with the school policy.

4. Refer back to the consensus-building steps on the board. Work with the class on steps 1-5.

**Closure:** Ask students to reflect in their journals or as part of class discussion on the consensus-building experience.

1. “Which step took the most time? Why?”
2. “Was it difficult to reach consensus?”
3. “Did you have to compromise yourself in order to help the class come to an agreement?”
4. “Is this a good process to use?”