

# Lesson 36



**Area:** Give Constructive Criticism

**Title:** **How do you start hard conversations**

**Objective:** Students will

**Materials:** Scenario sheet

**Activity:**

1. Divide students into 5 small groups.
2. Give each group one of the scenarios from the scenario sheet
3. Instruct students they must come up with an opening sentence for their character to directly address the problem presented in a positive way.
4. Students should be encouraged to ask the question “And then what would happen?” At least 3 times (after each response) and try to keep their character responding in a positive way.
5. At the end of 7 or 8 minutes have each group briefly share their scenario and the opening statement the group came up with.

**Closure:** Ask students to share whether or not they believe constructive criticism is easier to give or receive.



## Scenario Sheet

Your locker partner leaves candy wrappers, dirty socks and T-shirts crammed in the locker. You have your belongings organized and would like to be able to open your locker and find what you are looking for during the school day without garbage falling out all the time. How do you tell him/her diplomatically to clean out his/her mess so you that both of you can have access to your belongings easily?

Kim babysits for a family 3-4 times a week. The parent has made an arrangement with Kim, saying she'd be home no later than 8:30p on school nights. However, this past month there have been four occasions where she was late causing Kim conflicts at home and stress about schoolwork and friends. Kim brings up the situation to the parent, but the parent denies it, saying she has been on-time, if not early. What should Kim do now?

Some of the student's in Mr. Crabtree's class think he plays favorites with the girls, especially Mary and Alice. He always calls on them and lets them leave class early. They never get in trouble for taking or passing notes and they get high test scores. Some boys are starting to make nasty comments and you have to admit it seems unfair from what you've seen. How can you tell Mr. Crabtree that there's a problem?

Hannah younger sister Maggie gets angry when asked to do household chores. Her parents sometimes get so tired of her outbursts that they say, "fine we don't need your help." The chores than fall to Hannah or someone else who is more cooperative. Hannah is tired of getting stuck with extra jobs. How can she point out to Maggie that her behavior is impacting others?

Jimmy is a member of a little league team. He is not a good player but he enjoys the game and being part of a team. His coach Dan, is obsessed with winning and so Jimmy doesn't get to play very often. He was given an old uniform and coach Dan makes remarks like "don't do it like Jimmy does." The other boys laugh at the hurtful remarks. Jimmy's parents don't attend the games and he feels he cannot talk to them about his problems. What can he do?