

How We Keep Each Other Safe – Lesson Plan

Middle School

Objectives

Students will:

- Explain why communities need trustworthy systems for reporting concerns.
- Evaluate the benefits and potential misconceptions about anonymous reporting.
- Analyze real-world examples of caring vs. harmful behavior, including digital scenarios.
- Reflect on personal values related to community safety.

Materials

- Google Slides: [Link](#)
- Student Paper ([link on webpage](#))
- Whiteboard for group notes (If necessary)

Lesson Activities

Warm-Up: Think–Pair–Share

- Ask students to discuss: “What makes a community feel safe? What threatens that safety?”
- Record responses.

Case Study Analysis

- Students work in small groups to review short scenarios:
- Students identify:
 - Caring behaviors
 - Harmful behaviors
 - Actions that require adult intervention
 - How anonymous reporting could help

Mini-Lesson: Purpose of Anonymous Reporting

- Lead a brief lesson on:
 - Why communities need safe reporting channels
 - How anonymous reporting reduces fear of retaliation
 - How reporting supports not punishment, but intervention and care

- Prompt:
 - “How does anonymous reporting help protect the person you're worried about?”
 - “How does it help protect you?”

Individual Reflection

- Journaling prompts:
 - “What values guide my actions when I see something unsafe?”
 - “Have I ever been unsure whether to report something? What made it difficult?”
 - “How can anonymous reporting make a difference in real situations?”
- Discussion Prompts
 - “Is reporting someone ‘snitching,’ or is it something else?”
 - “What does caring look like in middle school friendships?”
 - “What barriers stop students from speaking up?”