

RESOLVING CONFLICTS...HOW TO WIN FRIENDS

Background: I work with a diverse population of students who really struggle with how to effectively communicate with peers. My students are classified low-income and many have language barriers. They really struggle how to resolve conflicts, and how to make and keep friends.

Purpose: Students will be able to learn what a conflict is, how to resolve them, how to have healthier relationships with others, and essential communication skills so that they can learn how to compromise, be happier, and avoid trouble.

Notes: I would suggest using this PowerPoint presentation over a few lessons. There is so much information here, and teachers want to spend time on each point. I have highlighted the vocabulary words (e.g. compromise, negotiate, conflict, assertive). The highlighted red words are things to do in small groups or discussions for the class.

Preparation: Make sure the video on slide 5 is ready to go. Because this is a free clip online, you need to go through a few links to open it up. Have this done prior!!

Powerpoint:

Slide 3 - Discussion question

Slide 5 - Discussion question, video clip

Slide 6 - Discussion questions, you can do a writing assignment on this

Slide 7 – This may be a good place to end if you want to.

Slide 8 – Spend time talking on “I” messages.

Slide 9 – Role play “I” messages. It is best if the teacher assigns a conflict for the kids or come up with ideas as a class.

Slide 10 – Discussion question, negotiate

Slide 13 - Discussion question, end

Extensions:

- See how many words you can make from the vocabulary words. Do one vocabulary word per activity. (e.g. compromise makes promise, mop, some, etc.)
- Keep an angry or conflict journal.
- Guest speaker on resolving conflicts (police, principal, etc.)
- Post a graffiti wall (a butcher paper where kids express positive feelings) where students can write examples of when they practiced using “I” messages.
- Parent connection – practice doing “I” messages at home and write about your experience.
- Revisit throughout the year the new vocabulary words. Have the kids use them when they talk about conflicts.
- This is a great introduction to using a classroom community council. The kids nominate responsible peers to be the classroom mayor and assistant. Meet weekly about classroom issues.
- Show the Friends PowerPoint.