



## Resolving Conflict with Respect

### Lesson Plan

Adapt this one-period **lesson plan** for any grade level and follow it with a simple and powerful **service project** on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The **reflection** brings learning and service impact together.

#### Anticipatory Set: (8 minutes)

Put up the following quotation: "Different people have different opinions, and it's okay to respect all of them." - Juan Pablo Galavis (a retired professional soccer player)

Ask students to think about a time when they had a difference with one of their friends or family. Try to get students to share, but have an example or two to share with them. Discuss:

- What was it about?
- How did you resolve it?
- How did you feel afterward?

Discuss why respecting and listening to different opinions is important in a diverse world. Share times when a first impression of a situation was wrong.

#### Part One: (12 minutes)

Display one or both of these scenarios. In each of these scenarios, those not chosen were unhappy and felt that the process was not fair. Have small groups read their scenario and brainstorm answers to the questions below.

#### Scenarios:

1. At recess time a group of fifth-grade boys and girls head out to the playground. They join a group from another class that is gathering to play a team game. They are in the process of dividing into teams, and one of the boys who is selected as captain is forming a team with NO girls on it.
2. The science club of a diverse high school is setting up a team to compete with other schools. Mike, the captain of the team, is allowed to pick the 4-member team, subject to approval of the principal. Mike, a white male, announces that he will pick the science club members with the three highest scores on the PSAT to join him on the team. This year, those three happen to be white male students.

In your small group discuss the following questions:

1. In what ways was the captain of the team being fair, and what ways was he unfair?
2. If you were present, what could you have contributed to a more fair outcome?
3. What is the proper process for a fair outcome?
4. How does the Galavis quote help with the discussion and resolution?

#### Part Two: (20 minutes)

1. Bring the class back together to share ideas from their discussions.
2. Together, create a classroom master plan for effective conflict resolution.



The students should brainstorm their own effective method, but here are some ideas:

1. state your point of view
2. ask the other person to explain their position and listen carefully
3. ask clarifying questions and state their point of view in your words
4. brainstorm solutions that fit both points of view--find common ground
5. agree on next steps, including seeking someone else to help with the resolution
6. accept that resolution likely will include compromise by all

#### Enrichment

Students can find additional quotes that display the importance of peaceful conflict resolution to share with the group.

## Service Project

*This service project may be started in class and completed in subsequent days, either with the class or with friends and family.*

### Project Overview:

Create a poster to be displayed around the school or in the community depicting the final collaborative conflict resolution guidelines.

### Procedure:

Students have access to poster board, markers, pictures/illustrations to create their groups' poster.

Note: A poster is one suggestion; your students may communicate their methods through a demonstration, social media, video, or other means.

Be sure the steps on the posters reflect the students' path to effectively listen to others, strategize options for solving the conflict, and reach mutual understanding.

Share, then display the posters throughout the school setting.

## Reflection:

Follow the project with a brief reflection.

In a written response, address two or more points listed below:

1. How did your thinking change in regards to recognizing conflict and understanding skills to resolve it?
2. Give a personal example of a disagreement you have had and the steps you used / could have used to bring both sides together.
3. Explain the role of an outside mediator and when it could become necessary.

**Follow-up:** Discuss what they'd like to do next to continue respecting others in their community.

