

Skit

The following skits explore the importance of having a social contract. Each scenario raises awareness of the problems that arise when we go against the unspoken agreements about how we treat each other in order to have a respectful and safe social environment. You may recognize the uneasy feeling you get in your stomach when a social situation doesn't feel right. Act out with your group the scenario below that you have been assigned, interpreting how someone would react in the situation. Practice first, and then you will perform your interpretation to the rest of the class. It is okay to adjust the scenario, as needed. After a group performs the scenario, there will be a discussion about the social contract, or the social understanding that the situation represents.

- **Scenario One:** The students at City Middle School moved across town from the building they were in for many years to a larger, but older building. The building was in bad shape. At first the students felt disappointed in the space, but over the first year in the building, they worked together to clean it up, add art to the halls, paint the lockers, and even plant a roof garden. They grew proud of the building. When the students arrived back at school after a long weekend, they found some vandalism in the courtyard outside the lunchroom. How do students react to seeing the vandalism? What social contract was broken?
- **Scenario Two:** Brent and Evan have a great group of friends. There are seven core members--girls and boys--who eat lunch together every day, and about six others who join them one or more days a week. One of the kids, Pablo, who joins them a couple days a week is planning a party for Halloween. He talks about his ideas for the party with the whole group, so everyone knows it is coming. A couple weeks before the event, he starts inviting people. Brent is invited, but he knows that Evan has not been invited. How should Brent handle this? What social contract was broken?
- **Scenario Three:** Beth arrived at school early because she forgot her math book and didn't have her homework done. She worked in her math teacher's room and got the assignment done and turned in just before school started. On her way to class, she saw one of her friends and said good morning. The friend said, "Where were you this morning?" Beth told her about forgetting her math book and making up the work before school. Her friend said, "That was a stupid thing to do." and rolled her eyes. Beth's feelings were hurt. How should she respond to her friend? What social contract was broken?

