

How We Keep Each Other Safe – Lesson Plan

High School

Objectives

Students will:

- Examine why communities require safe, confidential systems to address concerns.
- Understand the role of anonymous reporting in preventing harm and supporting wellbeing.
- Evaluate complex ethical situations involving safety, privacy, responsibility, and digital communication.
- Reflect on their values and responsibilities as members of a school community.

Materials

- Student Paper (link on webpage)
- Whiteboard for Whole Group Notes

Lesson Activities

Opening Reflection

- Ask students: “What is the difference between ‘getting someone in trouble’ and ‘getting someone help’?”

Ethical Dilemmas Group Work

- Small groups analyze more complex scenarios.
- Groups answer:
 - What harm is present or possible?
 - Who is affected directly and indirectly?
 - How could anonymous reporting support a safe outcome?

Whole-Class Debrief

- Discuss themes:
 - Fear of retaliation
 - Loyalty vs. responsibility
 - Safety culture

- Intervention vs. punishment
- Reinforce the idea: “Anonymous reporting is a tool for early support. It is not about punishment. It’s about care, prevention, and connecting people to resources.”

Reflective Journaling

- Student Paper Written Prompt:
 - “How can anonymous reporting empower students to protect each other?”
- Discussion Prompts
 - “Should safety ever outweigh privacy? When and why?”
 - “How does digital communication change the risks and responsibilities of students?”
 - “What kind of school culture makes reporting feel safe?”
 - “What barriers might stop me or my peers from reporting concerns?”