career★girls

Importance of Civility: Classroom Lesson Plan

Lesson Topic:

The Importance of Civility

Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to define civility and give examples of civility in action.

Materials:

- Writing utensils
- Whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper
- Blank paper
- Projector or other method to watch the movie
- Colored or otherwise "fancy" paper for Code of Civility, optional

Advanced Preparation:

- Preview the video before sharing it with your students [2:03].

Warm-up Activity:

1. Ask students to turn and talk to a partner about what the word "civility" means to them.

2. After a few minutes of discussion, bring the class back together and ask students to share their ideas.

3. Work together to come to a class definition of the term civility (e.g., *"To show respectful and polite behavior and speech in interactions with others."*) Ensure this definition is written on the whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper for reference later in the lesson.

View the Video: "The Importance of Civility"

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "The Importance of Civility".

2. Explain that the video presents role models describing civility and its important role in all of your interactions.

3. View the video together and have students listen for the role models to describe civility.

4. Briefly discuss how the class definition of civility fits with the situations and scenarios that the role models described.

5. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions, and responses to the video.

2. Direct students to turn and talk to a partner about interactions they have been involved in or witnessed that demonstrated civility.

3. After a few minutes, bring the class back together to share examples of civility in action. These situations can be briefly noted on the whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper next to the class definition of civility.

4. Remind students that civility is important in all their interactions, and the classroom is a great place to practice the language and behavior of civility! Tell students that they will be working together to draft a Code of Civility for the classroom. They should draw on their understanding of civility from their lives, the video, and the class discussion to create a list of guidelines to ensure civility in the classroom.

5. As a class, come up with one possible guideline for the Code of Civility as an example. (e.g., *"Say 'thank you' when someone helps you,"* or *"Greet your classmates by name in the morning."*)

6. Divide students into small groups. Provide each group with some blank paper and writing utensils. Direct students to work together to brainstorm guidelines for civility.

7. Bring the students back together and use students' ideas to craft a Code of Civility. The original draft can be completed on the whiteboard, overhead, or chart paper. If desired, a final draft can be copied onto colored or "fancy" paper for students to sign. This final draft can be hung on the classroom wall for future reference.

8. Students should be reminded that civility applies to all of their interactions, not only those in the classroom! Encourage students to discuss what they learned in class with their parents or guardians and model civil behavior both inside and outside of school.

Extension Activities:

1. Have students keep personal journals to document their interactions over the course of a week. Each day, students should be asked to document one or more interactions and to reflect on the level of civility they displayed. Students can also be asked to consider how they could have elevated the level of civility in the conversation.

2. Use the "Related Questions to Explore" as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore civility.

Related Questions to Explore:

• Why should you bother to be civil?

• When someone is rude to you, what is your response? What is the best way to handle this situation?

• Does civility happen automatically? Explain your answer.

• You may have heard the saying, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." What does this mean? How does it relate to civility?

• One role model said that those that are kind and good look out for other kind and good people. Do you think this is true? How might this information help you in life?