

Responsibility

The lessons this week focus mostly on how we exhibit responsible behavior with other people in social situations. We will examine how we can be responsible in our actions and through our communication. We also discuss the concept of assertiveness and how to responsibly engage with others in both physical and online settings.

Begin the unit with the whole class lesson and then aim to complete at least two of the mini lessons with your students throughout the week. Each mini lesson is designed to present elements of the main lesson in new and engaging ways.

Main Lesson

Whole Class Lesson
30 minutes



Social Responsibility

In this lesson we discuss ways to respond responsibly in different social situations. We discuss how responsible behavior is not reserved for only certain places or with certain groups of people. Instead, we need to be responsible any time we are interacting with others. (See page 2 for lesson details.)

Mini Lessons

For Small Groups
15 minutes



Social Communication

In small groups, discuss how we communicate responsibly and effectively with family, friends, and teachers. What enables responsible, effective communication and what gets in the way of responsible, effective communication?

For Partners
15 minutes



Teamwork

With your partner, talk about teams you have been on in the past (or are currently on) and how you need(ed) to be responsible for your role on a team. How do you problem-solve when someone doesn't fulfill their responsibilities on the team?

For Individuals
15 minutes



Being Assertive: Self-reflection

Define "assertive." How is this different from other terms like "pushy," "bossy," or "aggressive"? When you are pressured by your friends to do something you don't want to do, how can you be assertive and stand up for yourself? How is being assertive under peer pressure actually the responsible thing to do?

Technology-Focused
15 minutes



Netiquette

Define "netiquette" as a group and discuss why it is important. Discuss and write down 5-10 netiquette rules you all can follow and post them in the classroom.

Social Responsibility

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Lesson Timeframe

30 minutes

Required Materials

- ☐ Smartboard to project the situations (optional)

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, International Society for Technology in Education Standards, when applicable, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Evaluate responsible words and actions in social settings, both physical and online.
- Discuss assertive behavior as a means of exhibiting personal responsibility.
- Practice responsible communication.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

Sometimes the volume of responsibilities that we have can be overwhelming. We can feel like there is too much to do and we don't have enough time. The flip-side, of course, is the honor of our responsibilities. Think about how many parents have entrusted their kids to you. Think about the future world your students will build. You have one of the greatest responsibilities of all in shaping your community, state, country, and world. You have a direct line to the future! What a privilege! Even on the hard days, remember how much power and influence you have through your responsibilities as a teacher. It is also good to take time to remember why you got into teaching in the first place. At that time you likely didn't know how much responsibility you would have. You didn't fully know the long days, long nights, fast weekends, and myriad of student needs, abilities, and interests. So, remind yourself of the best parts of the job. What is your favorite teaching responsibility?



Share

5-7 minutes

Last week we talked about the difference between a right and a responsibility. Can someone review those definitions for us?

What is a right? (Invite student response.)

What is a responsibility? (Invite student response.)

Good! What is the relationship between these two things? (Invite student responses.)



Inspire

3-5 minutes

We have rights that are protected by law or certain rules or policies, but in order for us to fully enjoy our rights we must be responsible for respecting the rights of all people and for following the rules that protect and ensure our own rights.

This week we are going to shift gears into social responsibility, which refers to our responsibility for engaging with other people in different social spaces, particularly how we communicate with others face-to-face and online, how we participate on a team, and how we stand up for ourselves with other people.



Empower

15 minutes

So, let's think about different social situations we are in and what our responsibilities are in those situations. I will project different situations on the board (or read them out loud if there isn't a smartboard projector) and we are going to talk about what you think your responsibility is in that situation.

- You are in the grocery store and notice that a display of cans have been knocked over and are now laying all over the aisle floor. There is a woman with a walker who is coming down the aisle toward the mess. She clearly won't be able to get through the mess. Do you have any social responsibility in this situation? If so, what and why? If not, why not?
- You are in a candy store and witness another kid about your age put some candy in her pocket. She catches your eye as she starts walking toward the door. Do you have any social responsibility in this situation? If so, what and why? If not, why not?
- You are eating out at a restaurant with your friends and their parents. Your friends are acting really wild. They are yelling, spilling drinks, laughing, and throwing bits of food at each other. The parents don't seem to mind. Do you have any social responsibility in this situation? If so, what and why? If not, why not?
- You are invited to a birthday party in someone else's house. What is your social responsibility in this situation?
- You are part of the school choir. This week you are going to put on a special concert for residents of a local nursing home. What is your social responsibility in this situation?

Add additional social situations that apply more directly to your student group or if you need to fill more time.



Reflect

5-7 minutes

It is important to remember that we have some responsibilities simply because we live with and among other people. The responsibilities we talked about today are not necessarily 6th-grader responsibilities or jobs and duties that have been specifically assigned to you personally. These are things we are expected to do because this is how people are expected to act in social spaces. As you find yourself in different social situations this week, think about what your responsibilities might be and make sure you are acting on those.