

Bullying and Violence Prevention: Marvin

Lesson Title: Letters of Love: Supportive Acrostic

Grade Level: Middle School



Project and Purpose

Students create acrostic poems that demonstrate the power of being an ally.

Essential Question

How can YOU help to control sexual and gender-based harassment in our community?

Notes

This lesson could be conducted over the course of two class periods.

Materials

- Letters of Love Worksheet
- Writing utensils

Procedure

1. Remind students about the ways that Marvin was treated by other kids and how little support he received from teachers and his classmates. Marvin tells us: "I have been beaten up, chased down, I have been thrown in dumpsters, but of course none of that was as bad as the verbal harassment because you couldn't escape it. You can run away from someone trying to beat you up, but in a classroom there was no where to run."
2. Discuss the following terms and definitions with students:
 - **harassment:** Conduct that actually or intends to substantially interfere with a student's educational opportunities by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment.
 - **LGBTQ:** an acronym for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer (and/or Questioning)
 - Lesbian: females who are sexually attracted to females
 - Gay: males who are sexually attracted to males
 - Bi-sexual: a person who is sexually attracted to both males and females
 - Transgender: a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth
 - Queer or Questioning: the stage when a person is exploring and discovering his/her gender identity or gender expression

Letters of Love

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