

LESSON PLAN ON GUN VIOLENCE/SANDY HOOK PROJECT (SAMPLE LESSON)

Created and adopted from a HISD School

This lesson is designed to foster discussion, awareness, and support for campus teams in the wake of gun violence. We encourage teachers, counselors, and social workers to conduct groups and check in with students and staff and utilize district resources to address the emotional needs of their school community.

Main Theme or Focus: What is the objective for this week regarding guns/violence?

Identity and Relationships: Students are encouraged to learn more about each other. What is their opinion about guns? (Accept all viewpoints.)

Objectives: Openly discuss issues that exist in the world today regarding guns, violence, right to bear arms, and gun control legislation.

Inquiry Questions: (Summary)

- How do students feel about guns/violence and how it may affect their campus?
- What are the opinions about guns and ownership of guns?
- What do they think about the Second amendment (right to bear arms) vs. gun control?

Concepts/Skills/Knowledge: Students will be able to:

Develop an understanding and acceptance of different opinions and focus on empathy.

Materials:

- Access to a YouTube video to show to class
- Large sheets of paper to for post-it notes and to write on
- Post-it notes, pencils/paper, tennis balls

Activity 1 & 2

Grade Levels: Middle School & High School Students

Watch the following video: [Sandy Hook Promise Video](#)

Watch it again and discuss the following: Would you have noticed Evan in your class? If so, would you have said anything?

1. **The Emoji project.** Students are to draw an emoji expressing how the video about Evan made them feel. After each student has expressed their feelings, they are to place the emoji on the large paper.

2. Divide the students into groups of 4 or 5 each. As a group, have them brainstorm ways they could have prevented the violence. Write down their ideas on the other large paper.

Discussion questions (as a class).

Reminder of norms:

Norms for Discussion

- Start sentences with “I”
- You may pass.
- Support others
- No put downs
- Listen
- Be honest with yourself and members of your group

The discussion questions

- How do students feel about guns/violence and how it may affect their campus?
- What are the opinions about guns and ownership of guns?
- What do they think about the Second amendment (right to bear arms) vs. gun control?

*For younger students, the video may not be appropriate. You can simply ask them to express their feelings about the event using an emoji and then share out. Fostering a discussion and helping them process their feelings.

Activity 3: Small group discussions

Grade Levels: All grade levels

Materials: Paper and pencil

Objective: To provide a more comfortable setting for continued discussions about guns & violence.

Description: Small groups are formed with a designated leader in each group. Next the leaders of each group will ask their groups to write down how they feel about guns. The leader will then pick up the papers, mix them up and read them aloud to the group. Students should be able to express their viewpoints in an open and judgement free manner.