

I'm Different Now

Moyagabi



Grade Level: Middle School



DU Theme: Making difficult decisions



SEL Competency: Responsible Decision Making

Essential Question: How do you make difficult decisions?

Facilitator may wish to use reflection questions with students individually or in groups. Below is a possible adaptation for a group activity.

ACTIVITY

Ask students the following questions:

Moyagabi tells us about talking with his father. Why do you think his situation could affect how well he does in school?

What are the things that help you decide to make responsible decisions?

Based on your knowledge of student, split students into groups of 2, 3 or 4. Give each group a scenario to consider.

Hand each group a scenario. Have groups read their scenario and brainstorm ideas for what advice they would offer the person in the scenario. Allow students enough time to develop consensus for what solutions they would offer. After students have had time to reflect and come to consensus on the advice they would offer, have them write down their ideas to share with the rest of the group.

I'm Different Now

Have each group share their scenarios and the advice they would offer the person in the scenario. Ask probing questions about their ideas and decisions that each group came up with. Focus on making decisions that would be actionable and help the person in the scenario.

Probing questions could include:

What other ideas did your group discuss?

Why did you choose to offer the advice you did?

Is there more than one helpful decision that the person in your scenario could make?

How does your decision compare with the decision another group [with the same scenario] suggested?

[10-20 minutes]

CONCLUSION

Debriefing questions.

Why do you think Moyagabi made the decisions he made?

How do you go about making decisions when you are faced with difficult situations?

[2-3 minutes]

I'm Different Now

DECISION MAKING SCENARIOS

Andrea and her older sister have always had a very close relationship and Andrea spends a lot of time with her sister and her sister's friends. Andrea's sister has applied to a special program that will allow her to live and go to school in Japan for a year free of charge. Her sister has decided that this is a great opportunity and is going. After her sister left, Andrea does not have her sister to hang out with and her sister's friends are not around either. What problems is Andrea facing and what decisions does Andrea would you suggest?

Aaron has never had trouble with his school until this year. In particular the papers he has to write are much longer and harder. He does not really understand what his English teacher wants him to do, but last year he was getting A's consistently and now he works harder to get a C. When he has asked questions in class other students laughed at him, so he decided not to do that again. What is Aaron's problem and what ideas do you have for him?

Ashlee recently moved to a new town because of her mother's job. She had a lot of friends at her old school and the adults in the neighborhood all liked her. She does not know anyone at school or in the neighborhood and she is very lonely. Her mother has told her not to worry, she'll make friends but Ashlee is not so sure. What should she do?

Rolland spends a lot of time in extra-curricular activities at his school. He is on the track and field team where he competes in the high jump and long jump. He also is a member of his school's chess club. His school also has a very active drama program. One of the teachers who is involved in the drama program has seen him working out with the track and field team and she asked him to be a dancer in the next play, a musical which a lot of dancers are needed in the cast. He has never done any dancing before, but the teacher assures him that with his athletic ability he would have no problem. Although no one has said anything directly to Rolland, he has heard some of the boys on track and field team making fun of the students in the chess club. He is worried about what people will say if he decides to dance in the play. Also, if he does participate in the play, he will have to give up either track and field or chess. What advice would you offer Rolland?