Private approach vs. public approach

When is it okay to approach someone about a problem? Is it better to have others around or should you wait until you are alone with that person. This lesson will teach students the best ways to approach someone in the event of a conflict.

Goal: To teach participants to think before they approach someone about a problem. This could prevent a conflict from occurring.

Objective: Participants will be able to:
- Assess the environment around them.
- Determine if the environment is conducive to expressing an issue.
- Determine the best time to discuss an issue.

Time: 1 hour

Materials:
Index cards
Art supplies for role plays

Leader's Note-
1. Tell the class that they are about to play a Warm-up game.
2. The object of this game is to have the participants engage in a fun activity.

Activity - Warm-up game

Leader's Note-

1. Tell the participants to stand in a circle.
2. Tell the first person to begin the game by saying, "I went to the store and brought a…"
3. The first item they say should begin with the letter "a".
   - Example: I went to the store to buy an apple.
4. The next person in line should begin by saying, "I went to the store and bought an apple and…"
5. They should add another item beginning with the letter "b".
   - Example: I went to the store and bought an apple and a ball.
6. Each participant repeats all of the items listed before them and adds on one more in alphabetical order.
7. The object of the game is to see who can remember the most items.
8. Try to go to the letter Z!

Public and Private Approach

Leader's note-
1. When the warm up is done, tell the participants to take their seats.

2. Tell participants the definition of a private and public approach:
   - Private approach is talking to someone about a problem when it's just the two of you.
   - Public approach is trying to talk about a problem when there are other people around.

Leader's note-

1. Read the following scenarios to the class.
2. Have the class determine if the approach in the scenario is public or private.

Scenario #1

Your best friend made a joke yesterday about your clothes. Although she was kidding, your feelings were hurt. You see her with a group of other people and approach her about how you feel.

Scenario #2

Your classmate tossed some papers onto your desk and messed up the work you were doing. During the lunch break, you see your classmate eating alone and you approach your classmate about how their action made you feel.

Leader's note-
1. After reading each scenario, please discuss the following points…
   - Was this situation an example of a private or public approach?
   - Which approach should they have chosen?
   - What are the consequences and benefits of a public approach?
   - What the consequences and benefits of a private approach?

Leader's note –
1. Tell the class that Scenario #1 is an example of a public approach.
2. Tell the class that Private approach is the preferred method in this scenario.
3. Tell the class that Scenario #2 is an example of a private approach
4. Tell the class that private approach is the preferred method in this scenario.

Activity – The Spectators

1. Break the students up into groups of three or four.
2. Each group will create one scenario where the same problem is being addressed publicly and privately.
3. Each group will also create the "spectator environment" or the environment in which a scenario is being addressed publicly (on separate paper).
   - Spectator environment could be kids at the playground watching two students resolve a conflict.

4. Each group will role play their public approach scenario while another group is role playing the spectator environment.
   - For example, Group 1 will give Group 2 the spectator environment they created.
   - Group 1 will role play their public approach scenario while Group is role playing the spectator environment.
5. Each group will role play their public approach scenario first and then the private approach scenario.
6. Below is an example…
   - Group 1 has created their public and private approach scenarios and "spectator environment."
   - Group 2 has also created their public and private approach scenarios and "spectator environment"
   - Group 1 is called up to role play their public approach scenario
   - Group 2 is assigned to Group 1 as the "spectator environment".
   - Group 2's "spectator environment" are kids eating lunch in the cafeteria while observing and instigating the problem in Group 1's scenario.
   - Therefore, Group 2 will role play their "spectator environment" (kids eating lunch in the cafeteria while observing and instigating the problem) while Group 1 is role playing their public approach.
   - Group 1 will realize how difficult it is to publicly address a problem with Group 2 creating the spectator environment through role play.
   - Group 2 will sit down and Group 1 will then role play the private approach scenario. (no environment is needed for private approach)
   - Follow this process for each group and scenario.
   - After each scenario, debrief with the class.
7. After each scenario, ask the following questions…
   - What was the problem being addressed?
   - What impact did the "spectator environment" have on addressing the problem publicly?
   - What did you notice about addressing the problem publicly?
8. Challenge students to think of instances where is it best to address a problem publicly.
   - For example, when a problem impacts many people like an organization or family.