

Recognizing an Instigator

Goal: *To teach participants to identify instigators, learn to prevent a higher level of conflict, and to learn how to interact in a situation with instigators present.*

Objective: *Participants will be able to:*

- *Identify instigators*
- *Walk away from an instigated situation*

Materials:

Paper
Pencils
Kitchen timer
Crayons
Markers
Scissors

Time: 1 hour

Activity – Instigator Reality Show

Leader's notes -

1. **Prior to class:** Print each of these scenarios and cut them so they are separate.

Scenario #1: *One of you has lost your wallet and you believe your classmate has stolen it. You saw your classmate with the same wallet earlier that day. You confront your classmate to see if they have seen your wallet. The instigator's job is to create tension during this discussion and to make the student feel as though he/she should have a heated argument or fight the classmate who they believe stole the wallet.*

Scenario#2: *You have just lost a basketball game. One of you feels that if the other tried a little harder, your team could have won. The instigator begins to stir up an argument between the two teammates.*

Scenario#3: *Two of you like or are attracted to the same person. You begin to argue over him/her. The instigator begins to take the side of one of you and causes the argument to become worse.*

Scenario#4: *Your teacher tells the class that cell phones are not allowed. If your teacher sees a cell phone, she will take it and your parents will have claim it. Your friend, sitting in the back of the class, sends you a text and you hear your phone beep (indicating a text). You take out your phone and*

respond to the text. Your teacher sees the phone and takes it. The instigator creates an argument between you and your friend.

Scenario#5: You told your friend that you are going to the store. Your friend gives you a quarter to buy chips for them. You agree to do it. On the way to the store, you drop the quarter and can't find where it landed. When you see your friend, you tell him/her that you could not buy the chips because you dropped the quarter and could not find it. Another person will act as the instigator. The instigator will try to convince the friend who wanted the chips that you did not drop the quarter but took the money and bought yourself candy.

Leader's note-

1. Explain to the class that they will be participating in the "Instigator Reality Show."
2. Explain to the class what an instigator is: A person who starts trouble between other people.
3. The show's cast members will be those acting out the scenarios above.
4. Separate the class into 5 groups.
5. Give each group a scenario.
6. Tell students to read the scenarios and create role plays.

Leader's Note-

1. After a group has performed the role play, the persons acting out the scenario (cast members) will sit in front of the studio audience, which is the rest of the class.
2. The cast members will act as if the studio audience is helping to solve their problems.
3. The studio audience will do the following...
 - Help identify the instigator in the scenario.
4. The host, which is the teacher, will ask the studio audience the following additional questions...
 - Who was the instigator?
 - How could the cast members handled the instigator so that more conflict could have been prevented?
 - Ask students if they have ever been in a situation like this. If so ask them to volunteer to share their story.
5. Have the cast members write down the audience's suggestions (these suggestions are needed later).
6. Then move on to the next scenario.
7. Complete this process for each scenario.
8. Now each group will act out the scenario again, but this time, they will incorporate the audience's suggestions on how to handle the instigator.
9. The group will not tell the class which suggestions they will use before role playing the scenario again.

10. The group can use as many suggestions as they like.

11. Below are ways you can share with the class on how to handle an instigator.

- You can wait to speak with the other person in private (without the instigator present).
- Ignore the instigator
- Strength in numbers – rely on the testimony of witnesses you trust if you know the instigator is lying
- Don't hang around – If you know the person is an instigator, don't hang around them. Go to a different area or hang around different people.