

REPORTING VS. TATTLING

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Purpose: Encourage students to see the difference between “reporting” and “tattling.”

It's a tough decision to decide to report when you or someone you know is being harassed/bullied. Some reasons NOT to report are because one may feel that they are being a “snitch” or “tattle-tail.” The defining line between reporting and tattling are:

Reporting: You want the behavior to stop. Whether being harassed/bullied yourself or witnessing it, you report because you know that it is not safe either way. The harassment/bullying can cause physical or emotional pain and it needs to stop. Reporting can be thought of as protecting yourself or others.

Tattling: You want the person to get in trouble. You're not worried about anybody's safety (physically or emotionally). You're not even concerned if the behavior stops, you just care about getting the person in trouble.

Materials:

1. List of scenarios (second page of this document)
2. Signs in designated areas of your room: “YES”, “NO”, and “UNSURE”
3. Access to the Waldon website to show students where they can go to find the “Bully Reporting Form”

To do:

1. Discuss the definitions above about reporting vs. tattling. Emphasize the fact that it can be hard to decide to report or not to report.
2. Read the list of “To Report or Not to Report?” scenarios on the next page. After each scenario have kids go to the area of the room you have designated, “YES” (I should report), “NO” (I don't need to report), or “UNSURE” (I don't know if I should report). After the students go to one of the three locations, ask volunteers to explain why they selected that answer. It is especially important to hear from the students who select “UNSURE.”
3. Use your projectors to show students where the “BULLY REPORTING FORM” is located on the Waldon website. (Left side of main page of website, **Waldon Students, Bully Reporting Form**) Go ahead and look at the form together as a class and submit a fictitious report if you'd like. Emphasize to students that the reports will only be viewed by administration or counselors.

To Report or Not to Report? Scenarios

Have students decide if they would report it as bullying, not report it, or are not sure. They should move to the designated area of the classroom based on their choice.

1. You get an email saying not to talk to a certain girl in school anymore and to forward the email to everyone you can.
2. A teacher repeatedly embarrasses one student at the chalkboard when the student is unable to do the requested problem.
3. You saw someone secretly taking photos on a cell phone in the locker room after PE and laughing about them later.
4. Someone gets invited to play Xbox live but then gets teased after being beaten badly.
5. You heard that a kid at school was being beat up repeatedly on the way home from school, but you don't know for sure if it is true.
6. A new kid approaches a group of students and asks if he can hang out. A kid in the group says no and they turn away from the new kid.
7. You see two boys arguing in the parking lot, and one threatens to punch the other one.
8. You have a difficult time finding a seat on the school bus because all of the empty seats are "saved."
9. You raise your hand to answer questions in class. Later, in the hallway, a group of students makes fun of you for your class participation.
10. You know that all the kids in your class were invited to a party – except for one.
11. Someone set up a fake Facebook page and is posting false things about another student. The student is apparently unaware of what's going on.

Ask a volunteer to give a scenario if you have time.

Guiding questions for students to understand their selection:

- a. What would make you "unsure" to report?
- b. If you selected "no" or "unsure", what would you do in that situation if you chose not to report?
- c. What would sway your decision from "no" or "unsure" to a "yes?"
- d. Do you feel students at Waldon typically report it when somebody is harassed/bullied?