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January 11, 2005

**For Grades:** Middle School  
**Topic:** Empathy  
**Target Concept:** Building Community

**Geared toward Whole School Effectiveness: School Climate and Safety**

**Set-up:**

Bellwork: Introduce a role-play: Another teacher walks in and has an altercation with the class teacher

“What is empathy, in your own words? [Is either of them showing it?]”

Follow with formal definition from dictionary or *PeaceWorks* lessons

**Lesson:**

Is empathy a positive or negative thing?

Use of I-Messages

Break into small groups; each group writes and acts out a short skit demonstrating empathy.

“How does empathy affect our sense of community in the class?” (Tends to increase it)

**Homework or extensions:**

Find pictures demonstrating empathy to bring in

**Authors:** Margaret Flores, Robin Jackson, Harriet Davis, Stephanie Hawkins,  
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**For Grades:** Middle School

**Topic:** Rumors

**Target Concept:** Peace Rules

**Focus on Safe School Climate / School Effectiveness**

**Set-up:**

Bellwork: Question of the day—"Have you ever had someone talk about you behind your back?"

Play "Telephone Game."

**Lesson:**

Discuss question of the day and underlying emotions.

Introduce relevant vocabulary.

Introduce and discuss Peace Rules.

Which rules does talking behind someone's back violate?

Role Plays from *Bully Proofing Your School* on positive and negative consequences

"Stop and Think" DVD/ activity

**Homework or extensions:**

Class creates their own Peace Rules.

Create catchy slogans for schoolwide Peacemaking campaign.

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January 11, 2005

**For Grades:** Middle School  
**Topic:** Global awareness  
**Target Concept:** Building Community

**Includes components of essay writing for Writing benchmarks**

**Set-up:**

Show students a globe of the world. Point out different continents, countries, your city.

Prompt: "If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and who would you take with you? Why?"

**Lesson:**

Discuss elements of essay: Introduction ("eye catcher"), topic sentence, body, conclusion. Summarize the events of the trip. Relate how it has changed you. Has this trip changed your relationship with others?

**Homework or extensions:**

Use a word web to help the students with expanding ideas, generating words and concepts.