

“I Was Just Kidding”

(Adapted from NoNameCallingWeek.org and Tony Sturgeon, Fishers Jr. High, Fishers IN)

Objectives:

- To demonstrate the difference between joking and bullying
- To prevent name-calling in the classroom by creating an “Anti-Slur Policy”

Audience: Sixth grade students

Standards: Indiana Health Education Standard 6.5 – Interpersonal Communication

Materials Needed: Handouts for “I Was Just Kidding!,” “Teasing or Bullying,” and “Creating an Anti-Slur Policy for your Classroom” exercises; writing utensils

Time Required: Three class periods

Teacher Instructions: This activity is a three-day process that teaches about the effects of bullying in schools and is designed to prevent name –calling in the classroom. Although this web page will describe the activity and provide general directions, lesson plans for these activities can be found at NoNameCallingWeek.org (see the link that follows).

Preparation for Day #1: Get students thinking about bullying and its effects by presenting students with a homework assignment the day before you begin this series. In the assignment, they should respond to one of the following statements about bullying.

- Write about a time in your life when you have been a victim of bullying.
- Write about a time in your life when you have bullied someone else.

Day #1: Day One provides an introduction to teasing and bullying. The handout “I Was Just Kidding!” will be used. Students will work in pairs and decide if the different situations described on the handout are “harmless teasing” or “hurtful.” Teachers are then encouraged to hold a classroom discussion about teasing and when the “line is crossed” into bullying. After this conversation, you should distribute the handout entitled “Teasing or Bullying” and review with students the difference between the two.

Visit [NoNameCallingWeek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org): "[I Was Just Kidding!](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org)" at http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/binary-data/NoNameCalling_ATTACHMENTS/file/4-1.pdf for lesson plan and handouts.

Day #2: Day Two features an activity that involves creating an “Anti-Slur Policy.” This activity will require two days. To begin, offer an introduction to name-calling and the effects it has on students. Students should brainstorm examples of name-calling and also ways to deal with future instances. After this discussion, distribute the handout entitled “Creating an Anti-Slur Policy for your Classroom.” Place the students in small groups and give them the rest of the class period to answer the first five questions on the handout.

Visit [NoNameCallingWeek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org): [Anti-Slur Policy](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org) at http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/binary-data/NoNameCalling_ATTACHMENTS/file/19-1.pdf for lesson plan and handouts.

Day #3: Day Three involves completing your classroom’s Anti-Slur Policy. Students will need to refer to their completed “Anti-Slur Policy” handouts. As a class, establish a list of their ideas. The bulk of the class period should be spent discussing which ideas are the most important to the students. Those ideas should be then put into a statement that will be used as your classroom’s “Anti-Slur Policy.” Use the “Sample Anti-Slur Policy” to help your students write the statement. Students should commit themselves to abiding by the rules established in the policy. Be sure the statement is displayed prominently in your classroom to remind students.

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