

Speaking Up For Each Other

Objective: To illustrate the importance of sticking up for others

Audience: Middle school students

Materials Needed: “Speaking Up For Each Other” handout, writing utensils

Time Required: 20 – 40 minutes depending on discussion length

Teacher Instructions: First, distribute the “Speaking Up For Each Other” handout. Next, have students read the poem to themselves. When they finish reading the poem, they should fill out the sentence completion exercise that follows. Next, place students in groups of 4 or 5 and ask them to discuss their interpretations of the poem and their answers to the exercise. They should explain their answers to their groupmates. You may want to observe the groups to ensure that they stay on task. Once conversations seem to dwindle, field any further questions and discuss why it’s important to “speak up” and what your class can do to “speak up.”

This exercise is adapted from one located on the [CCSF Teaching Tolerance](http://www.ccsf.edu/Resources/Tolerance) website. Visit their website www.ccsf.edu/Resources/Tolerance for other classroom activities. “First They Came for . . .” poem was written by Rev. Martin Niemoller, 1945.