

## Group Agreements

Begin the activity by hanging your “Group Agreements” poster.

**Say:** *Because of the subject material we will be discussing, I am going to explain some guidelines that will make our time together go more smoothly.*

Discuss each component with participants.

- 1. CONFIDENTIALITY:** The information we will be discussing in this class is very important. However, there may be individuals in the hallway or on the bus who are not prepared yet to hear this kind of information. What we talk about in this class room will stay in this classroom. That doesn't mean you can't discuss the information you've learned in here at home with your parents/guardians. However, we are not going to disclose other's private information. This includes self-confidentiality. Do not disclose information in here that you would really not want other people to know or repeat. However, there are sometimes things that need to be repeated, such as if you tell me someone is hurting you or someone else. If you tell me something like this, I will report that to the appropriate parties.
- 2. BE KIND AND RESPECTFUL:** Everyone in this room is different and has different experiences. It is important that we respect these differences. This means no criticizing, name-calling, or bullying. It's ok to disagree with someone, but you must do so in a respectful manner.
- 3. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SILLY QUESTION:** Many of you will likely have questions about some of the material we will be discussing. I encourage you to ask questions! If a question is asked earnestly to gain knowledge, then there is no such thing as a silly question. If you feel like asking your question aloud would be embarrassing or uncomfortable, you may write you question down and place it in my question box.
- 4. RIGHT TO PASS:** All group members have the right to not participate in any activity that makes them feel uncomfortable. If you think an activity is going to make you feel uncomfortable, please let me know and I will arrange for you to an alternate activity.
- 5. CLASSROOM RULES:** All classroom and school rules apply while this class is in session.

**Say:** *Is everyone clear on the expectations for this class? If so, we will go ahead and get started.*