



CORE MESSAGE

Respect and understanding ensue when students allow themselves to become more aware that everyone has a story. If they just look a little closer, they may see a whole new side to someone that they once only judged and/or dismissed. When we understand this reality and learn to look at others with compassion and understanding, people become real. It's hard to treat someone poorly once you get to know them.

OBJECTIVE

To help students to look closer at those around them and become more empathetic.

SUPPLIES

- Computer & Projector
- Triangle Teaser Image (On Page 4)

SEL COMPETENCIES

- ✓ SELF AWARENESS
- ✓ SELF MANAGEMENT
- ✓ SOCIAL AWARENESS
- ✓ RELATIONSHIP SKILLS
- DECISION MAKING

OPENING DISCUSSION

(3-5 MINUTES)

(Use this discussion to set the tone.)

Ask:

- **What is the definition of empathy?**

After hearing some definitions from students, finish with a brief discussion about what it means to have empathy.

ACTIVITY

(8-10 MINUTES)

TRIANGLE TEASER

Display the Triangle Teaser Image (found on page 4) on the screen and ask: "How many triangles do you see?" Only provide students about 25 seconds to decide on an answer, and write the answers on the white board. When all answers have been given, you should have a range of answers from 16-27. Now ask: "How is it possible to look at the same image but get different answers?" Listen to student explanations.

Ask:

- **When we don't have all the information, what happens to the conclusions we come to?**
- **Is it ok if our answers change?** (Actually, answers should change if we learn there is more information to consider.)

Take a moment and have students share how they arrived at the answers they provided. Listen for their reactions, and facilitate an open discussion about how looking closer can give us a more accurate and fuller picture. This is a good time to share a personal experience where this has been true for you. Perhaps it was a student you've worked with, family, or a colleague. Help students to become aware of the need to look more closely at others rather than making snap judgments. When we look more closely we see a fuller picture and compassion and understanding ensue.

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Activity Continued...

DISCOVERY

(8-10 MINUTES)

Use the questions below for further discussion and learning. Feel free to add your own questions.

What Happened? (Talk about your group's experience.)

- What just happened?
- What was the process you went through to see all of the triangles?
- How did some answers change in the process? Why did they change?

What Does It Mean? (Talk about what can be learned.)

- How does taking a closer look help us to see a fuller picture?
- Where do you see a need for that in the school?
- Where do you see empathy happen in the school? Where could we use more of it?
- How can we increase empathy for others?
- What would it mean for our school if students experienced more empathy?

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CORE CHALLENGE

Share this challenge with your students to help them apply what they've learned.

Is there someone you've been overlooking and need to take a closer look at? Decide who that might be, and find out what you can learn about them. Have a conversation with them, or sit next to them in a class.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

We firmly believe it becomes easier to treat others with more respect once you get to know them. Even outside of Advisory please continue to foster opportunities for students to learn about each other. Whether it's group activities, seating arrangements, or oral presentations. When it comes to social and emotional learning, building empathy is second to none.



THE CORE PROJECT

TRIANGLE TEASER IMAGE

