

Who are they...?
5-10 minutes

This activity reviews for the understanding of the definition of aggressor, victim, bystander, and problem-solving bystander.

Read **Harassment Led to Suspensions in Fairbanks** to the students.

There are several statements that reflect how several different people felt about the harassment that happened at the middle school. Read one at a time and have the students determine what role the person played - aggressor, victim, bystander, or problem-solving bystander.

Some of the statements are easier than others. They have been marked, however, the other statements would be useful and may lead to great discussions.

Harassment Led to Suspensions in Fairbanks

Four middle school students at South Fairbanks Middle School were suspended for fighting on Friday. The principal, Susan Greenwood, said that she learned of the incident from someone other than the students directly involved in the fight. The incident was reported to the school administration by one of the students who saw the fight take place.

Ms. Greenwood declined to describe exactly what happened, but one of the students who observed the fight said that the fight began when several 8th graders "canned" a 7th grader. "Those 8th graders said 7th graders were trash so they picked up a 7th grader and put him in a garbage can. Everyone in the hallway was laughing. They started pushing and shoving him when he tried to get out."

The incident occurred outside Stacey Derry's classroom. "I heard all this laughing and when I went out to the hallway, I saw what was going on. I thought they were just joking."

Steve Oleson, the assistant principal, said that the suspended students had a history of being disciplined for harassment offences against the targeted student. "We take harassment very seriously here. Students have to understand that there are consequences for their actions." The suspensions are three days for fighting.

One of the target's friends reported that this kind of harassment had occurred before. "We told him that if he just ignored the harassment it would go away. But I guess it didn't. It got worse."

He stated that the suspended students had frequently called his friend names, "accidentally" tripped him, and written things about him in the boys locker room.

Ms. Greenwood restated that any form of harassment is against school district policy. "Hopefully this will be a wake-up call for students and staff."

I'm in 8th grade at another middle school in Fairbanks. I was relieved when the article about the harassment at South Fairbanks Middle School came out. Harassment happens at my school too. I know because I've been the target of mean jokes and dirty looks.

* I'm in 7th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. Some 8th graders "canned" me earlier this year. I was too scared to tell anyone.

Victim

* I'm in 8th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. Some kids took a picture of me out of my locker and put it in the boys bathroom. All these guys kept coming up to me and saying awful things. I was so embarrassed.

Victim

I'm one of the teachers at South Fairbanks Middle School. The fight occurred outside my classroom. I heard all this laughing and when I went out to the hallway, I saw what was going on. I thought they were just joking.

* I'm an 8th grader at South Fairbanks Middle School. I didn't actually touch the kid but I was in the hallway when the whole thing happened. It didn't seem like such a big deal. Yeah the kid was scared but it was over in a couple of minutes.

bystander

* I'm an 8th grader at South Fairbanks Middle School. I never meant for the kid to get hurt. It sounded like a really funny idea when we first thought about it. I guess it got kind of out of hand. I wanted to stop the other guys but I knew they'd make fun of me if I did, so I just laughed and went along with them.

- aggressor & bystander

My son is one of the boys who got suspended from South Fairbanks Middle School. I don't see what all the fuss is about. Boys will be boys. They'll outgrow those kinds of pranks.

* I'm in 8th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. I heard about the fight last Friday. I was kind of upset to hear about my friends doing stuff like that but I think its just part of initiating 7th graders into the school.

bystander

I'm in 7th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. I heard about the fight. It really makes me mad when I hear about students harassing other students. It's not right. Yesterday I talked to the guy who got beat up. I wanted to tell him that the harassment wasn't his fault.

My daughter goes to South Fairbanks Middle School. I was relieved to hear about the 8th graders being suspended. I've tried to teach her to respect others but it's hard when she gets the opposite message at school. I'm going to contact the principal to see what I can do to help stop harassment in the school.

I'm in 8th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. I was surprised when I heard about the fight. Those guys are my friends and I'm really disappointed in them. I'm thinking about getting on the student council so I can bring up the issue of harassment.

I'm in 7th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. I heard about the harassment from the guy it happened to. The whole thing really made me angry. I offered to go with him to tell the principal.

I'm an English teacher at South Fairbanks Middle School. Every semester I teach about respect and diversity in my classes. I don't tolerate behaviors like hazing and other forms of harassment. I intervene whenever I see harassment occurring in my class or the hallways.

I'm in 8th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. I wrote about the harassment in the school newspaper because I think everyone needs to know that harassment is not okay. We're going to follow up with an article about how much it hurts to be the target of harassment.

I'm in 8th grade at South Fairbanks Middle School. When I heard what my friends were planning on doing to that kid, I tried to stop them. I told them it was going to humiliate him and that we should do something else that wasn't harassment.

bystander - problem-solving? - Should have reported