What Is Sexual Harassment?

Lesson Plan
GRADE 7 | Unit 2 | Lesson 9

Objectives
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

• Recognize and define sexual harassment
• Explain the difference between flirting and sexual harassment

Vocabulary
• Sexual harassment (n.) when someone bothers someone else with words, actions, or pictures of a sexual nature
• Flirting (n.) welcome attention that makes you feel good, flattered, or neutral

Program Themes
Bullying and Harassment, Conflicts, Relationships

Prep
• Make sure the poster from Lesson 8 that shows how to report harassment is on display in your classroom.
• Partners or small groups

Warm-Up (8 min.)

Set the purpose for today’s lesson.

Review the last lesson.
Give students time to think about the question on the screen. Then call on students at random to share their responses.

Select the Review button for a summary of what was learned.

Read the reminder on the screen aloud.

Let’s look at some common situations you might have experienced or heard about.
Read the instructions on the screen aloud.

Read the statement and the questions on the screen aloud and give think-time. (You’ll do the same for the next four statements.)

CASEL Core Competencies
Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making
What Is Sexual Harassment?

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Warm-Up (cont.)

Read the statement and the questions on the screen aloud and give think-time.

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Let’s take another look at these actions. Read the prompt and the actions aloud. Call on a few volunteers to discuss. Select the Possible Answers button to see possible answers.

These actions are examples of sexual harassment.

Now let’s take a look at the actions that are okay. Read the prompt and the actions aloud. Call on a few volunteers to discuss. Select the Possible Answers button to see possible answers.

These actions are examples of flirting.

Define (6 min.)

It’s important to know the difference between sexual harassment and flirting.

Select the first card on the screen and read the definition aloud. Sexual harassment can happen in person or online. Every school and workplace has a policy against sexual harassment.

Select the second card on the screen and read the definition aloud. If the other person won’t stop flirting with you when you ask, then it’s harassment.

Your emotions and reactions can help you tell the difference between sexual harassment and flirting. Read the responses on the screen aloud.

Talk to your partner about whether each response is caused by sexual harassment or flirting. If students are using the handout, they can mark their answers in the Define section.

Give students time to talk to their partner.
Define (cont.)

Read each response and have students vote on whether each response on the screen is caused by sexual harassment or flirting. Drag the Harassment and Flirting labels on the screen to their corresponding responses.

Select the Check button to show the correct answers. If any answers are marked incorrect, guide students to correct and recheck their answers.

Students might disagree about the last two responses: “The attention is unwelcome” and “You did not say yes to the behavior.” Engage students in a discussion about why these responses might fit each category. Someone might start flirting with you without asking, but they’ll stop if you ask them to. They might know that the attention is unwelcome, so it could be harassment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Harassment</th>
<th>Flirting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• You feel unsafe</td>
<td>• You feel okay or even happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The attention is unwelcome</td>
<td>• You feel comfortable and can stop the interaction easily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You did not say “yes” to the behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Video (7 min.)

This video shows some students talking in their school hallway. As you watch, ask yourself: Are these interactions examples of sexual harassment or flirting? Why?

Play the video.

Have students write their responses to the questions on the screen. Then call on students at random to discuss their responses. Select the Answers button to see the answers.

Wrap-Up (4 min.)

Have students write their responses to the prompt on the screen. Call on students at random to share their responses.

Sexual harassment is a serious issue and you may need help to get it to stop. It’s important that you report all incidents of sexual harassment to a trusted adult. Refer students to the poster on reporting harassment.

Remind students to save their written work.

Conclude the lesson by encouraging students to take action on what they learned. Select the Sneak Peek button to introduce the next lesson’s topic.
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