



## 7.7 No Name Calling Week

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**Suggested Grade Level:** 6-9

**Time:** 1-2 months in advance

**Subject Area:** School Climate, School Engagement, Social Justice, Advocacy

### **Overview:**

By becoming role models around kindness and respect, your GSA can work towards a positive climate within your schools by addressing verbal harassment and bullying in the school. This project also allows for the opportunity to get staff, administration, and other student groups involved.

### **Goals:**

- Develop strong teamwork skills within your GSA
- Learn about project planning and implementation
- Create a kinder and more empathetic school climate

### **Materials:**

*\*Materials will be determined by selection of projects*

### **Resources:**

GLSEN'S No Name Calling Week website: <https://www.glsen.org/nonamecallingweek/>

### **Procedure:**

#### **Setting the Vision**

There are many projects that a GSA can take on to create a successful No Name Calling Week. Luckily, No Name Calling Week is supported and sponsored by GLSEN and they have developed many resources in developing your No Name Calling Week. Please refer to the website listed above under Resources for more information. Below will be the steps you can take with your GSA to determine the scope of your No Name Calling Week project.

*No Name Calling Week is held nationally the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January, however students may pick anytime of the year to hold No Name Calling Week or do it more than once a year.*

**Step One:**

Consider the vision the GSA has for No Name Calling Week. Ask the group to talk about what they hear in school around verbal harassment and bullying. Remind the group that they only have to share what they want to share and are not obligated to share anything that is personal or would make them feel vulnerable. Keep a record of what is said.

**Step Two:**

Looking at the list that was created by participants, ask them to envision what they would like to their school climate to be like around verbal harassment and bullying. What does it look like? What does it feel like? What does it sound like?

**Step Three:**

Comparing the two lists, ask students to brainstorm what messages they think would be effective for students to hear. This may be a good time to do some additional lessons around empathy and respecting difference.

**Things to Consider:**

- When was the last time someone talked about the importance of kindness in a way that resonated with you?
- Has anyone seen any media recently (music, youtube, etc.) that has promoted the importance of kindness?
- What kinds of messaging do participants think students respond to?
- What would they like to see teachers do in the school to create a positive school environment?

**Step Four:**

Ask participants to create a list of student groups, teachers, and administrators they would like to get involved with supporting the No Name Calling

**Creating the Scope:**

## **Step One:**

Now that you have a vision and a potential list of collaborators, think about what you would like to do to during no name calling week. Please see the attached GLSEN resource.

Below is a list of activities students may want to participate in:

- Daily Announcements
  - Student Council reads messages about respect and kindness each morning
  - Daily quotes on TV displays
  - Word of the Day featuring words that address harassment and bullying
  - Singing a song over the morning announcement about preventing harassment or Bullying
  
- Art Activities
  - Make and display posters school-wide
  - Grade-level poster contests
  - Borrow the button maker from Out4Good and make buttons
  - Create bookmarks for students to handout
  
- School Staff Activities
  - Make a presentation to staff members about harassment and bullying
  - Make a presentation to staff about homophobia and transphobia
  - Create a bookmark to give teachers on how they can respond to bullying in the classroom
  - Have teachers make a daily announcement about bully prevention each morning

Let your GSA brainstorm many possibilities beyond this short list.

## **Step Two:**

Look at the you're the week and your list of activities. Have participants put which activities fall on which days. Some activities (like daily announcements) may happen everyday. Try and have something new happen each day of the week.

### **Example:**

Monday – Start Daily Announcements

Tuesday – Hang Posters

Wednesday – Student written bully prevention article appears in school newspaper, Hand out buttons at lunch

Thursday – Read empathy poem in advisory

Friday – Have students sign pledge cards and hang cards in hallways

## **Promote Your Event**

### **Step One:**

Look back at the list of potential student groups, teachers and administrators you listed as collaborators. Schedule meetings with each of these groups. Consider splitting the groups up between multiple GSA participants. Write out talking points and notes beforehand.

**Step Two:**

Share your vision with the people you are meeting with as well as your proposed activities. Let them know how they can get involved and ask for their support.

**Step Three:**

Spend the weeks leading up to No Name Calling Week telling students and teachers about the upcoming events and getting any materials ready for the launch of your No Name Calling Week!

**Additional Information**

The material provided above should give your GSA a good start on planning for No Name Calling Week. Please remember to allow for flexibility from your GSA, perhaps they have a different vision for the week, please support them in exploring their own methods to addressing harassment and bullying. Also don't forget the many great resources available at GLSEN

<http://www.glsen.org/nonamecallingweek>