

Drug and Alcohol Prevention

Video Title: Ashley

Lesson Title: Lean On Me Part 2

Grade Level: High School



Project and Purpose

Students determine the qualities of supportive relationships through examination and creation of song lyrics.

Essential Question

What are the characteristics of a strong friendship?

Materials

- Writing materials
- Song-writing graphic organizer

Procedure

1. Using the song lyrics that you analyzed with students in Part 1 of this lesson, examine with students the difference between the verses and the chorus. Explain that verses are each unique and broken up by a chorus that is the same each time it is sung. The chorus tells the central message of the song and the verses combine to tell the story of the song.
2. Tell students that they are going to build upon their analysis of songs that feature lyrics about the qualities of friendship to create their own song lyrics about friendship.
3. The first step is for students to brainstorm the qualities of friendship that they will focus on in their song lyrics and the stories that they'll tell through the verses to convey their message.
4. Provide students with the song-writing graphic organizer and invite them to work independently on writing their song lyrics for three verses and the chorus.
5. The song lyrics that students write may be personal and uncomfortable for them to share with each other. However, if students are comfortable sharing their song lyrics, you may want to ask them to work in peer groups to share and get feedback on their lyrics.

Conclusion

Bring students back to the essential question guiding this lesson: What are the characteristics of a strong friendship? Ask students to share about what qualities they chose to focus on in their songs. Why did they choose to focus on those qualities? Invite students to share how they told stories about those qualities through the lyrics of their songs. What is the main message about friendship that they would want listeners to walk away with after hearing their songs? How do their song lyrics relate to Ashley's story?

Notes

Worksheet: Song-writing Graphic Organizer

Name _____ Date _____

Song Title

Verse 1

CHORUS

Verse 2

CHORUS

Verse 3

CHORUS