

Why Cheat?

This lesson gives students an opportunity to explore the concept of cheating through the lens of integrity; specifically, the lesson addresses the idea of perseverance and that we must persevere either when tempted to cheat for ourselves or asked to cheat by someone else. It isn't easy to make the right choice, especially when you feel pressured "in the moment". This lesson gives students strategies to combat both temptations in cheating and reminders to always do their own work.

Integrity Sub-Concept(s)

Kindness

Lesson Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- Smartboard to play the video
- Poster paper and art supplies for creating posters

Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



**DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.**

See last page for details.

Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Explore different cheating scenarios and explore how to react with integrity.
- Use strategies in perseverance to combat the temptation to cheat.

Teacher Connection/Self-Care

The next promise focuses on how to continue the topic of integrity throughout your day, every day. Promise #3: "I promise to teach from bell to bell." While 5 minutes here and there to grade, lesson plan, or update the newsletter doesn't seem like a lot, it adds up. You only have these students for a limited time each day and every day is not guaranteed. Life happens- illness, vacations, transitions, life struggles- they all take time away from your time with that student. Five extra minutes daily during guided reading could be just enough to get that struggling reader over the hurdle! Five minutes every day for a week adds up to one more math lesson you could have included, an impromptu field trip outdoors for an alphabet focused nature walk, or even some much needed read aloud time. Every child counts, every minute counts. Use your time wisely to create stronger connections with them.

Tips for Diverse Learners

- Use a note catcher to write responses while watching the clips or having a printed copy of questions.
- Pause the videos at key points so students can better access the emotions and decisions in the video and record them in their note catchers.



Share

3-5 minutes

In this unit we have been talking about integrity and honesty. Let's review the definitions we wrote down in Lesson #1.

These should be on the poster paper from Lesson 1, ideally displayed in the classroom. If you didn't do this, have students read their definitions of integrity from their journals. If this is not available, have students volunteer the definitions they have learned in the last couple of weeks.

*Let's talk also about the word perseverance.
Can anyone define this word for us?*

Invite student responses. Add this word and definition to the poster paper with Integrity and Honesty.



Inspire

5-7 minutes

Video Clip: PBS, It's My Life Clip "Cheating" (2:56 min)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKnh0IC7-1M>

Show the video clip noted above. If you can't play the clip, summarize by saying the following:

"The Public Broadcasting Company in the United States created a video where they interviewed different kids your age about cheating. Here are some of the questions and answers the students gave:

- What is cheating? If you're taking a test, it's writing things on your hand, opening your book and pretending you didn't, reading things from a sheet of paper, or talking to a friend. It can also be when you copy a friend's homework or use something that is already written by someone else.
- Why is it wrong? It's not your own answers; it's not your work. If you cheat, you won't learn; if you get caught you get in trouble.
- Why do people cheat? Sometimes you cheat even if you know the answers because it makes you feel more certain you'll get the answers right. It's easier than studying. People want the easy way out.
- What would you do if you saw cheating? Tell the teacher or keep it to yourself? You can also tell the person not to cheat.
- Would you let a friend cheat? You can tell them no, to go study themselves. You could remind them that if you got caught, you would get in trouble too, so you can't help them cheat.



Empower

15-20 minutes

Video Discussion:

- Which comments were most meaningful?
- Were there situations that you agreed or disagreed with?
- Would you tell if someone was cheating? Why or why not?
- Would you let a friend cheat?
- Do you think that cheating can have consequences? Why or why not?

Let's talk about how perseverance is related to integrity and honesty when it comes to something like cheating. Does anyone have an idea about how perseverance is related?

Suggested responses might include:

- It might be more challenging and take longer to do your own work and be prepared, but you need to stick with it; it is worth the time and effort to do the right thing and to do your own work.
- If you have a friend who constantly asks you to help them cheat, you have to persist in saying "No!" It can be easy to just give in after a while (or even the first time someone asks you to cheat for them), but you need to stay strong and say no.

We are now going to create some posters that we can hang around our room to help give us strategies to persevere either when we feel tempted to cheat or when someone asks us to cheat and we need the courage to tell them no.

Put students in groups of 3-4 and give each group a piece of poster paper and art supplies (markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc.)

Assign each group one of two slogan categories: "Just Don't Cheat!" or "Just Say No!" Students can write their slogan at some point on the poster (it shouldn't be the main message, but more of a tagline).

Then, explain that their group needs to design a word or phrase that gives students support in persevering towards making an honest decision regarding cheating. For example, in the "Just Don't Cheat" category, a poster's phrase could be, "I Can Succeed Without Cheating!" For a "Just Say No!" poster, students might come up with something like, "No you can't copy me, but I will help you study!" The aim is to give students tangible phrases to use if they find themselves in a situation where they are tempted to cheat themselves or tempted to help another person cheat. Sometimes just having the right words at the right time can help students avoid a sticky situation!

Each group should work together to come up with their phrase and write it clearly across the poster; if there is time, they should make the poster colorful and visually creative.



Reflect

5-7 minutes

Today we looked at some cheating scenarios. It's not easy to know what to do when you see someone cheat. It takes a lot of integrity and perseverance not to cheat yourself sometimes or to know what to do when you witness someone else cheating, especially if that person is a good friend. The kind thing to do is to be true to yourself and to your friends, while encouraging them to be their best selves. Use the posters we made today to help you!

To gauge understanding of the material, choose from either the evaluation or reflection questions as discussion, writing, or journal prompts. Consider providing additional time for deeper evaluation and reflection as needed.

Evaluation Questions

- How does cheating threaten your integrity?
- What is your responsibility when you see someone cheat?
Do you have any?
- How is cheating related to self-discipline?

Reflection Questions

- Write about a time when you or someone you know was pressured to cheat and how you responded in the situation.
- If you see someone cheating, what are the different ways you can respond with self-discipline, respect, and integrity?
- How is cheating disrespectful?



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LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>