

Avoiding Gossip & Rumors

Communication Skills, Module 3



AGENDA



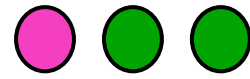
1. Brainstorm: Why do you think we gossip?



2. Activity: Working in pairs, Use the THINK strategy to determine if information that we hear is Good or Bad Gossip.



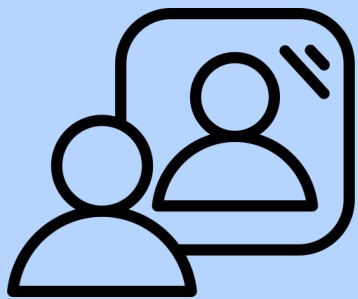
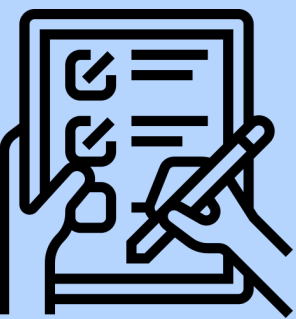
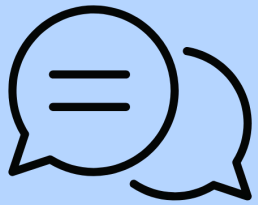
3. Reflect: If gossip is a social skill what types of information am I learning about my social group? How is this information helpful to me? What is my responsibility when friends share private information with me? What do I expect from them?

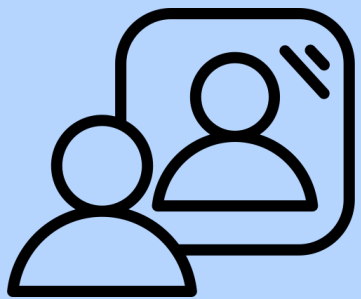
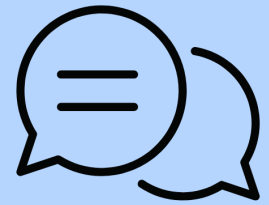


BRAINSTORM



Why do you think we gossip?





DISCUSS



Gossiping is a social skill, it is any talk about someone who isn't present, it's usually about something we can make a moral judgment about and it's entertaining.

"It's just social information and we learn a lot about the social world around us when we gossip."

Dr. Megan Robbins, at the University of California, Riverside

Good Gossiper: You trust them to tell them something private about yourself.

Bad Gossiper: You don't trust them with private information about yourself.



DIVE IN



THINK Strategy= Think before you speak

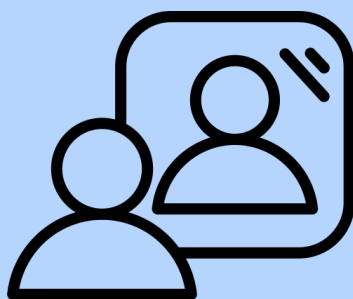
Is it **T** rue?

Is it **H** elpful?

Is it **I** mportant?

Is it **N** ecessary?

Is it **K** ind?



ACTIVITY



Working in pairs, Use the THINK strategy to determine if information that we hear is Good or Bad Gossip.



Worksheet

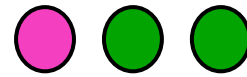
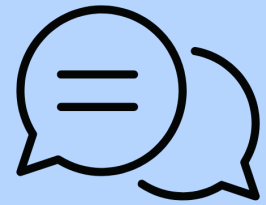
Name: _____

Date: _____

Being a Good or Bad Gossip

Gossip/Rumor	Good Gossip or Bad Gossip
Best friend tells you they bombed the math quiz.	
Best friend tells you they have a crush on the new kid in school.	
You overhear two teachers discussing who is getting the math award this year.	
Your brother is grounded for taking the car without permission.	
Your older sister didn't get into the college of her choice.	
You saw the test score of the person who sits across the aisle from you - they Aced the test!	
You heard that your best friend is going to be asked to the school dance by her crush.	
You saw a classmate doing some sort of community service project early Saturday morning.	
You see your best friend's girlfriend with another guy.	
You see the police talking to a classmate after school.	

Reflect: If gossip is a social skill what types of information am I learning about my social group? How is this information helpful to me? What is my responsibility when friends share private information with me? What do I expect from them?



REFLECT



If gossip is a social skill what types of information am I learning about my social group? How is this information helpful to me? What is my responsibility when friends share private information with me? What do I expect from them?



Extend & Enrich

From listening to gossip, provide a list of dos and don'ts for your friend group.



Home Connection



Home Connection

Avoiding Rumors and Gossip

Dear _____,

I wanted to share with you what your student has been learning about gossip and responsible communication. In today's lesson, we explored the concept of gossip and its role in social interactions. While gossip often has a negative connotation, psychologist Dr. Megan Robbins from the University of California, Riverside, suggests that gossip can be a valuable social skill. The key difference lies in how the information is used responsibly or irresponsibly.

We discussed strategies to ensure that we are responsible for the information we share. One such strategy is the THINK method, which encourages students to evaluate information before passing it on. They learned to ask themselves: Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Important? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? By applying these criteria, students can make thoughtful decisions about whether or not to share certain information.

To continue this conversation at home, please ask your student: "How can you use the THINK strategy to ensure you are being a responsible gossip?" This can be a great opportunity to discuss the importance of responsible communication and trust in relationships.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

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Professional Development



Take 5 minutes to consider: We often hear a lot of gossip in the staff room. In thinking about that sort of gossip, what have I learned about my colleagues or our students that has helped me to do my job better- Good gossip.

In thinking about that sort of gossip, what have I learned about my colleagues or our students that has gotten in the way of my job - Bad gossip.





Lesson Complete!

