

<p>Date: October 26 & Nov. 2, 2016</p>	<p align="center">GHS Seminar</p>
<p>Grade Level: 10th</p>	<p align="center">Seminar Meeting</p>
<p align="center">Recommended Sequence</p>	<p>Note: This lesson plan is for two seminar sessions.</p>
<p>Objective(s) / Learning Target(s):</p>	<p>1. By the end of the sessions, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine what kinds of behaviors constitute spreading rumors and gossip • use critical thinking skills to help them determine what options for dealing with rumors and gossip might be best in a particular situation • explore several strategies to help stop rumors and gossip and minimize their effects whenever possible
<p>Materials Needed:</p>	<p>Materials</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>No Room for Rumors</i> guide (see below) 2. Whiteboard/whiteboard markers 3. Pencils, pens, stylus, sticks-n-dirt, chalk, or other writing apparatus
<p>Suggested Process:</p>	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>1. Today we are going to talk about the ways that information is shared or spread about students. We're going to focus on gossip and rumors and the potential impact they can have not just on the students being talked about, but on our school as a whole.</p> <p align="center">Before you start the activity for Seminar, we're going to take a quick survey: Take out your laptops and open up a new tab on your browser and go to: www.obqsurvey.org.</p> <p align="center">Hand out a slip of paper with the entry codes and follow the directions in the packet. Once students are done, you can start the activity below!</p> <p>2. Let's start by talking about gossip and rumors (<i>write "rumors" and "gossip" on the board with room to leave student responses under each</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are rumors? (<i>write student responses on the board under "rumors"</i>) • How would you define "gossip"? (<i>write student ideas on the board under "gossip"</i>) • In your opinion, what is the difference between gossip and rumors? In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different? (<i>you can use some kind of delineating mark to show the differences and similarities between the two</i>) • Rumors are hearsay, information in general circulation, lack of confirmation of facts, fiction • Gossip is casual talk, often about the private matters of others, information might be true or false • How would you describe the difference between an opinion and a rumor? (<i>an opinion is a belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty; a personal view, attitude or appraisal</i>)

3. Here is a quotation about rumors:

“Rumors are hearsay; they are told, believed and passed on not because of the weight of evidence but because of the expectations by tellers that they are true on the first place.”

- Erich Goode and Nachman Ben-Yehuda

- ✓ How does this compare to the points we came up with as a group?
- ✓ What do you think motivates people to spread rumors?
- ✓ What do you think motivates some people to decide not to spread rumors?

4. Let's look at some other quotes about gossip. (*You can use and discuss as many of the following quotes and follow-up questions about rumors and gossip as you would like – use the questions provided to encourage students to talk about key issues such as ways gossip affects others, who has responsibility for the spread of rumors, and what can be done to counter act rumors.*)

“No sword bites so fiercely as an evil tongue.”

- Sir Philip Sydney

- ✓ Do you agree that the effect of words can be as painful or cause as much injury to someone as physical harm?
- ✓ What do you think the author means by “an evil tongue”? Are gossip and rumors always intended to hurt others?
- ✓ If gossip and rumors are so hurtful, why do you think people spread them?
- ✓ Do you think that whether someone intends to be hurtful in spreading gossip or rumors is really what matters?

“It isn't what they say about you, it's what they whisper.”

- Errol Flynn

- ✓ What kinds of things get whispered about as opposed to things people are willing to say outright?
- ✓ Is what people say directly to you easier or harder to deal with than something said behind your back? Why?

“Rumor travels faster, but it don't stay put as long as truth.”

- Will Rogers

- ✓ What does Will Rogers mean when he says that rumor travels faster than truth?
- ✓ Do you agree that truth will be around longer than they rumor?

“Three may keep a secret, if two of them are dead.”

- Benjamin Franklin

- ✓ Do you agree? Have you ever been asked to promise not to tell

anyone before hearing a rumor? Is it easy or difficult to keep such promises?

- ✓ Are there ever times when it might be important not to keep a secret?
- ✓ If you have to reveal something personal about someone else, what are ways you can be most helpful?

“No one gossips about other people’s secret virtues.”

- Betrand Arthur William Russell

- ✓ Do you agree with this observation?
- ✓ What are some ways “positive” gossip could be used to counteract negative things that might be said about someone else or to correct misinformation?

“If you reveal your secrets to the wind, you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees.”

- Kahil Gibran

- ✓ Why do think Gibran means you are to blame if you confide in someone and they reveal private information? Does this mean that we can’t trust anyone with anything?
- ✓ What ways might this give us insights about what information we decide to share or reveal about ourselves and others?

“Trying to squash a rumor is like trying to un-ring a bell.”

- Shana Alexander

- ✓ In your experience, do you agree with this quote?
- ✓ What makes it hard to “take back” something, once a rumor is spread?
- ✓ If a rumor is spread about you, what might you do to try to counteract it?

“Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you.”

- Spanish Proverb

- ✓ Do you think this is true?
- ✓ Why do people keep confidences sometimes and not others? Gossip about some things and not others?
- ✓ How does the saying “take it with a grain of salt” apply to this quote?

“A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.”

- Ouida

- ✓ What does this author believe about the way rumors are spread?

- ✓ Do you think the person who starts a rumor is more or less responsible for its effect than someone who passes it along?
- ✓ What responsibility do people have who simply ignore a rumor and do nothing at all?

5. This section of quotations poses options for ways of responding to gossip and rumors. Ask students to consider these and decide whether or not they feel these are useful suggestions and, if so, circumstances where a particular option might be useful. The primary goal is to encourage students to:

- a. view their responses to gossip and rumors as personal choices (to perpetuate it or to stop it)
- b. consider a range of options that might be available to them in any given situation

“Never tell evil of a man, if you do not know it for certainty, then ask yourself, ‘Why should I tell it?’”

- Johann K. Lavater

“If it’s very painful for you to criticize your friends – you’re safe in doing it. But if you take the slightest pleasure in it, that’s the time to hold your tongue.”

- Alice Duer Miller

Activity:

1. When we are faced with gossip or rumors – whether we are the subject of it or the recipient – it can be hard to know the best way to handle the situation. Like many other issues we’ve talked about in Seminar, there really isn’t a single answer or a simple solution to the problem.
2. We need personal guidelines for helping us decide the best course of action in a particular situation. It’s good to be prepared ahead of time as to what we might be able to do.
3. It’s important to keep in mind that whenever we are faced with gossip, we always have choices or options about what we do. First, you can choose whether to pass the information on to others or not. If you decide not to pass it on, what are some options you have? (*write students’ ideas on the whiteboard under the heading “Options”*)

Some options you may have to help them with if they are struggling to come up with some on their own:

- ignore it
- delete it if it’s a text – don’t send it on to others
- find out how it got started and try to talk to the person or group of people to tell them to stop
- tell the person who is being talked about so they know what is being said
- find a way to support the person being gossiped about

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • start a positive rumor or fact that counteracts the rumor • ask friends or someone you trust for advice • reach out to the person being talked about to help them <p>List at least 8-10 suggestions from your students and after you have the options listed, ask students to vote for their top three or four and number them 1 to 3 or 4.</p> <p>4. Divide your Seminar group into 3-4 groups and assign one of the options to each group. Give each group a copy of the <i>No Room for Rumors</i> guide (see below) to record their responses.</p> <p>5. Write the option you have been assigned on your guide. Discuss the option in your small groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask yourselves the six questions to consider and answer them as honestly as possible. • Next, brainstorm different ways that you could implement this option. Write down at least three suggestions for specific things you could say or do. <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring your Seminar back together. Call on each small group to state their option for action and to share at least one suggestion for implementing the option. 2. Discussion questions are below.
<p>OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:</p>	<p>Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a rumor has been started about you, which of these options would you want your friends to do to help? 2. What would you want the adults in your life (parents, teachers, relatives, etc.) to do if rumors were being spread about you? 3. What might prevent you from talking to others about a rumor spread about you? 4. Would you tell your parents about rumors being spread? Why or why not? <p>Wrap-Up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before you choose to spread a rumor or even listen to one, ask yourself: What is my motive in becoming involved? Use the ideas we talked about today to decide what options you have in a given situation to help put a stop to gossip and rumors. 2. Here's one last quote to ponder: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“There is so much good in the worst of us, And so much bad in the best of us, That it hardly behooves any of us, To talk about the rest of us.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Unknown</p>

No Room For Rumors Guide For Groups

Option: _____

Questions to Consider

1. In what kinds of situations would this approach be useful for me to use?

2. Does it help to know (or does it make a difference):

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|-------|
| a. How the rumor started or where it came from? | YES | NO | MAYBE |
| b. Whether it is based on facts? | YES | NO | MAYBE |
| c. How the information was passed along? | YES | NO | MAYBE |

3. Who will potentially be helped or harmed by passing the rumor on?

4. What responsibility do I have?

5. What effects can my actions (or inaction) have on me?

6. What effects can my action (or inaction) have on others?

Implementation

List three ways that you could implement this option – use specific words and actions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____