



Connections Activity



Title/Skill:	Responding to Conflict
Connection Goal:	Academic
Grade Level:	10
Month:	April
Time Needed:	25 minutes

Handouts/Materials Provided:

None

Summary of Activity for the Advisor:

1. To help students understand the body language and paralanguage of the five conflict styles, divide students into five groups representing the conflict response styles: **collaborative, accommodating, compromising, competitive, and avoidant**. Ask the students if they can explain the different styles. See attached for a description of each.

2. Have each group form a line facing you.

3. Read one of the situations from the list below, and have the person at the head of each line give a response that physically and verbally demonstrates their group's assigned conflict style. Then, have each of those students go to the end of the line, and have the next student in each line respond to another situation from the list. If feasible, continue until every student has had a chance to respond in each category (by switching group identity and repeating the situations).

- You think someone has treated you unfairly.
- You are mad about something a classmate said to you.
- A friend plays an embarrassing joke on you.
- Your parent tells you it's your turn to do the dishes when it's really your brother's turn.
- Your math teacher says that you're not trying, but you just don't understand how to do it.
- You say "no" to someone who wants you to smoke a cigarette.
- Someone calls you a name.
- A friend accuses you of not being a good friend.
- Someone cuts in line in front of you.
- A student in your class keeps staring at you.

Read/Review/Discuss/Do with students:

Ask the students to reflect on a recent conflict and ask the following questions.

Which response style did you use?

What were the effects of using that style?

What might you have done differently?