

One-Act Plays

This project gives students an opportunity to work in a theater medium (which could pair nicely with ELA standards) to demonstrate their understanding of how or when cheating happens, how to respond in such a situation, and consequences of cheating.

Integrity Sub-Concept(s)

Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes, over 3 days

Required Materials

- Paper and writing utensils for playwriting. Could also use a computer if you want to integrate a technology/keyboard component.

Divide students into groups of 3-5. They are going to write a short one-act play about the impact of cheating. Students should have at least three characters in their play and the play should span 3-5 minutes.

Day 1:

As a class, generate examples of cheating commonly found in school. Using a large poster paper; draw a large T-chart on the paper. On the left, have them write “Examples of Cheating” and on the other side “Consequences of Cheating.”

Brainstorm as many examples of cheating as you can and write them in that column on the sheet. These can be examples at school, in the community, in our nation, or things you have heard about from the news. Then as a group, write down the consequences of that example.

Day 2:

Have students write a paragraph explaining the situation example. Then choose 3 characters (real or imaginary) and give them speaking parts. The 4th group member could either serve as a narrator or be the director. This person should have an active role in the play even if he/she isn’t speaking directly to the audience.

Day 3:

Students can use the One-Act Play template or can write their plays on notebook paper. Plan to spend 2-3 days on this project as students will need time to write, rehearse, and perform (either for just the class or for another class). When students have their scripts done, collect them to make photocopies so each person has their own copy.

Wrap Up:

It is up to the teacher how and when students should perform their plays; they could be performed one per day to leave time for discussion or all at once with general discussion after. They could be performed for other grades or classes to help spark discussion about cheating in their classes. In any case, it might be nice to invite the principal or other administrators or even parents to watch.



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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/>

TITLE OF PLAY: _____

SITUATION DESCRIPTION:

CAST LIST:

Stage directions for the opening of the play:

Character	Dialogue

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Character	Dialogue

Hints

- Set the scene as to where the action is taking place.
- Use brackets [] to give your character stage directions and how they should say their lines
- Time may pass in your play (for example, it begins in school but ends later that day at home), but make sure you have a narrator who tells the audience when the time or setting is changing.
- Add or remove dialogue lines as you need to.