



Role-plays: Kindness and Truth

Note to the teacher: Make a copy of this handout and cut apart the role-play parts. Give each role-player a copy of *only* his or her part. Each part is general enough to be played by either a boy or a girl. The teller in each role-play should try to tell the truth with kindness and tact. The responder should respond as he or she thinks the character would respond. Either character can begin the role-play.

Role-play 1

Character A: The Teller

You are the editor of the school newspaper. You were really pressed for time with the latest issue of the paper because so many articles came in late. You were also over your head with tests and homework, and you stayed up all night trying to meet the newspaper deadline.

An article on the first pep rally of the year had come in on time, but it was so poorly done that you had to totally rewrite it. The reporter, who recently joined the newspaper staff, had seemed very pleased with the article, but it was a disaster. The sentences didn't make sense, the grammar was awful, the paragraphs didn't follow any logical order. It had seemed easier to rewrite the whole thing than to try to salvage the original article.

The reporter approaches you to find out why the article that came out in the paper looks so different from the one submitted to you.

Character B: The Responder

You recently joined the newspaper staff, and you have submitted your first article—on the opening pep rally of the school year. You were pleased with it because you thought it showed your flair for words, and you turned it in on time. You consider yourself creative and eager to learn.

But the paper just came out, and the article on the pep rally is nothing like the one you wrote, and your name is not on it either. You feel hurt, embarrassed, confused, and a little mad. You go to the newspaper editor to ask why your article didn't appear.

Role-play 2

Character C: The Teller

You are part of a group of friends whose main entertainment is hanging out at the local mall together. Every Friday night and some weekday nights you all meet at the mall and spend a couple of hours wandering through the stores, snacking, and sometimes buying things.

Lately, though, you've gotten tired of the mall scene and even tired of hanging out with these friends. You want to do more interesting things with your time—like maybe start up a friendship with some kids who have a band and begin creating your own music. You don't want to hurt your other friends' feelings, but you think you need to get away from the mall scene. One of these persons is approaching you, probably to tell you when everyone's getting together tonight at the mall.

Character D: The Responder

You are a fun-loving person who enjoys the feeling of freedom you have when you're with your friends hanging out at the local mall. It's great to be together, to forget the hassles of school and nagging parents, and to be in a place where lots of stuff is going on—people to see, things to buy, places to eat.

You usually go to the mall with a group of friends every Friday night and sometimes on weeknights. You're approaching one of your friends to say what time you'll be getting together tonight at the mall.