

What in the world is “Safety Language?”

If we had to give it another name:

The basic lexicon of the ABHS discourse community

The ABHS Code

ABHS Local Lingo

Safety language is used to diffuse low-level situations and try to look at things from a different perspective. It is a commonly understood set of phrases that allow the whole community to take responsibility for choices and decisions, serving the common good, and agree to guidelines. It is ABHS' code of conduct.

Below are some explanations, anecdotes, drawings, videos and more that you won't find on the safety language posters that you will see in your classrooms. This resource was created by ABHS teachers, staff and students. At the end of the resource, you will find scenarios that can be used to make skits.

“Try it on”



“No shame, no blame, no attack”

Amy Biehl High School fosters a community that thrives on creative risk-taking. Learners depend on thoughtful and constructive feedback. This is expected of all community members. Developing the skills needed to provide effective feedback without demeaning individuals or their ideas is crucial in honoring the growth of all. Shame, blame and attack can take many forms - insults, snide comments, sarcasm, put downs, public humiliation - none of which promote an effective learning environment. Avoiding these communication pitfalls allow us to build each other up rather than tear each other down.

“Risk taking is the essence of innovation”-Herman Kahn

“Speak from the I”

Examples:

Nobody likes the new schedule. (I am having a hard time adjusting to the new schedule)

Nobody likes this book. (I am having a hard time relating to this book or I have not read)

Poem (may be read to a beat):

Speak from the I, don't be that guy, that always blabs, stuff and things he does not grab. If you speak from the I, you won't get stabbed in the eye, with metaphoric generalities that can be blinding and often unwinding when you should be self-relying. Understand that we all have perspective, that is not singular to your objective. Raise above the fray, and don't allow yourself to be swayed. Now that you have read this glorious poem, incorporate this into your decorum.

“Stop the Drama”

Alternate Name Proposals and Pithy Quotes -

“Stop stirring the pot!!!”

“Say it to my face, not through your status”

“Quick - check your face. I just found a nose in my business”

Drama defined:

Constant conflicts - talking behind each other's back (gossip). People not going to the source of their problem. People actually enjoy the drama.

Song:

“Only Prettier” by Miranda Lambert:

"Only Prettier"

Well I've been saved by the grace of Southern charm
I got a mouth like a sailor and yours is more like a Hallmark card
And if you wanna pick a fight
Well I'm gonna have to say goodnight
I don't have to be hateful, I can just say bless your heart

And even though I don't belong with your high life friends
It doesn't mean we don't get together and try to make amends
It's easier can't you see
Let's agree to just disagree
We don't have to like each other but it's sure fun to pretend

So let's shake hands and reach across those party lines
You've got your friends just like I've got mine
We might think a little differently
But we got a lot in common you will see
We're just like you

“Help us out”

Quote:

“You don't always have to score the goal to help win the game. ”

- Maribeth Dvorak

“Step up”

“Step back”

“Do The Right Thing”

Quotes:

“Real integrity is DOing THE RIGHT THING, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.” Oprah Winfrey

Telling the store clerk that they gave you too much change. Sometimes you're your thoughts and sometimes you're your actions. What do you do when somebody tells you something in confidence? What do you do when you see someone sitting alone at lunch? How is doing the right thing different on Social media? In Public? School?

Watch this cool video!

"Kid President Link " <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-gQLqv9f4o>

Scenarios (for all the phrases) that can be used to make skits:

- 1) Facebook at night - a girl is dissed by another girl about a boy, takes it to school the next day but they don't have tools to resolve it OR want to keep "stirring the pot" so the conflict continues.
- 2) Students are supposed to be having a discussion in class. Two or three students seem to be talking the whole time while many members of the class are silent. The teacher tries to ask some specific questions to involve more students, but they all seem reluctant.
- 3) A student is expressing their love of and commitment to Flamenco dancing. Another student in the class is squirming and making rude comments to a friend at a table behind them, obviously scornful.
- 4) A student is unscrewing the plumbing in the boys' bathroom when a shy, freshman student walks in.
- 5) A student keeps speaking up in class about how Amy Biehl students are not religious. You notice that one student in the class looks extremely uncomfortable every time it happens.
- 6) Student shares something personal in a classroom conversation. Outside of the classroom, a fellow classmate passes along that personal information to other students in a critical way.