

# Signs of Responsibility

This project in the Responsibility Unit helps students recognize all of the ways they are responsible for themselves, the spaces they share with others, and the environment. Students will brainstorm ways to take care of themselves and their classroom by making responsible choices about working, cooperating, staying organized, and reducing waste where possible.

## Kindness Concept(s)

Responsibility, Kindness

## Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

## Required Materials

- Basic art supplies
- Blank paper for drawings (preferably recycled)

## Share

*In this unit, we have been talking about responsibility as well as habitats. What are the three types of habitats we have talked about so far?*

Body, Shared, and Environment

*What are some of our responsibilities when it comes to taking care of our body habitats?*

Invite student responses.

*What are some of our responsibilities in our shared habitats?*

Invite student responses.

*What are some of our responsibilities in our natural, environmental habitats?*

Invite student responses.

## Inspire

*When you look around our room or our school, where are some areas we could use some reminders about what our responsibilities are? Do you see any areas in our room we could be taking better care of? Are there some classroom or school rules we are responsible for following but haven't been very well lately?*

Invite students to brainstorm as a large group; consider taking some notes on the board.

*What about for yourself? What reminders do you need to help yourself make responsible choices so you can finish the year strong?*

Invite students to brainstorm.

*How about the environment? When you leave your house or when you leave school in the afternoon, do you think about your responsibilities to the environment? What reminders could we post by the doors to help people make responsible choices for the environment?*

Invite students to brainstorm.

## Empower

Today we are going to design and write signs we can post around our classroom, in our personal spaces like our lockers/coatroom, in our shared school spaces like our lunchroom, by the bathrooms, and by the gym, and at the doors we use to go outside before we enjoy nature. These should include drawings and kind words that gently remind us about our responsibilities. You will work on your own and should make two signs. One will be a small sign for yourself to hang in your locker. Then you will choose one of these to make: a sign for our classroom, a sign for a shared space in the school, or a sign reminding us to take care of the environment that we can hang by the doors.

If you can, show an example of the type of sign you are looking for, such as something you can post by your desk either reminding students or yourself of daily tasks that need to be completed.

## Reflect

If there is time, students can share their signs with the class; you can also give students time to go post their signs. This is a good opportunity to remind students of their responsibility to walk in the halls, to be quiet, and to follow sign-out/sign-in procedures. Be sure you've notified other faculty that students will be posting these notes. It would be wise to review all the signs to ensure the message is clear and the words are kind.

*These look like awesome reminders of our responsibilities for ourselves, for our shared spaces, and for our environment. It's not a bad thing that we need reminders; everyone needs reminders! It's good that we are looking out for one another and helping each other stay responsible!*



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The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs.

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.

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