

LABEL JUNKYARD

Introduction: We are going to discuss name calling and how names can make us feel.

1. Sit in a circle
2. Hand each student a nametag or label.
3. Instruct them to write on the label a word or phrase that they've been called.
4. Collect the labels and shuffle them.
5. Hand labels back randomly. Make sure that no one has their own label.
6. Ask for a volunteer to read a label and describe how he/she would feel if he/she were called that name.
7. Ask the owner of the label to describe how he or she really did feel when called that name.
8. Then ask the student in step #7 to read the label he/she was randomly given. Repeat process until everyone has shared.
9. Processing:
 - What effect do names have on people? (Often students will recall names from long ago--demonstrates the impact names can have.)
 - What similarities and differences did you notice about individuals' reactions to the names?
 - Were all the names based on stereotypes? If yes, how? What was it like to put yourself in someone else's shoes? Was it hard to do?