



# Social Awareness

## ABOUT MORNINGSIDE CENTER

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's evidence-validated programs engage young people in learning essential social and emotional skills and help educators build productive and respectful schools. The 4Rs Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, and problem-solving, adding depth to literacy instruction.

# Community Agreements

By: The 4Rs



## Community Agreements

### Note to the teacher:

*Community Agreements* is an excerpt from *The 4Rs™ [Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution] Teaching Guide for Middle School, Unit 1, Envisioning a Community Based on Respect, p.8.*

In the first lesson of *The 4Rs™* for Middle School, the teacher leads the students in establishing community agreements using the process below. Students review the agreements in every subsequent lesson, sometimes discussing ways to improve in areas where they are struggling and adding agreements to address emerging problems, if needed.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Materials:** chart paper and markers

Write the words “Community Agreements” on a large piece of chart paper. Elicit thoughts from your students about behaviors in the classroom that will make their time together as productive and pleasant as possible. Write their ideas on the chart paper.

Make sure to add the following points if the students don’t think of them:

- One “mike”: we take turns speaking
- Be open to other people’s ideas
- No put-downs

Once you have your list, go down it one item at a time and ask students if they understand and are willing to abide by the agreement. Discuss if necessary.

Post the chart for easy reference when reviewing the community agreements in subsequent sessions.

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