

## Respecting Differences

### Character Skills

- Respect

### SEL Skills

- Self-Awareness
- Relationship Skills

### Academic Skills

- Effective Problem-Solving

### Materials

- Four large sheets of paper numbered 1-4, hung in each corner of the room
- One die with the 5 and 6 covered

### Activity

1. Gather students in the middle of the room and point out the numbered four corners.
2. Read a set of choices (use suggestions listed below or create your own) and ask students to go to the corner that best represents them.

3. Once the students move to the corner that represents them, ask each corner to briefly discuss why they selected their answer.
4. Ask a few students from different corners to share with the large group.
5. After a brief discussion, roll the dice. The number it lands on is the “unlucky number.” Eliminate the students in that corner by naming their choice. “If you like country music, you are eliminated.” If you need to move the game more quickly, use the dice to choose the “lucky number” and that corner stays.
6. Keep playing until only a few participants are left. Play through at least two times.

### Discussion Questions

- How did it feel to be with others who are just like you?
- How does it feel when you are different than everyone else?
- What can we do to show respect to those who are different than us?
- How could our differences make us a stronger group?
- What did it feel like when you were eliminated from the game just because of who you are or what you like?

### Student Reflection

- Describe a time when you felt left out because you were different.
- How does respecting differences make our school a more welcoming place?

### Question Suggestions

- Which music do you like best: rock, rap, country, or classical?
- Which do you wear most often: tennis shoes, sandals, bare feet, or boots?
- Which drink do you like the best: soda, juice, milk, or water?
- What type of movie do you like best: action, romance, comedy, or science fiction?

## Definitions

### Respect

- Follow the Golden Rule
- Have integrity; do what you say you'll do
- Keep your promises
- Be loyal; stand by your values

### Self-Awareness

Identify and understand emotions, values, attitudes, motivations, mindsets, and personal attributes

### Relationship Skills

Create positive relationships and meaningful connections with family members, classmates, and teachers

### Effective Problem-Solving

Make rational, ethical, and effective decisions to find the best solutions to problems

These materials are presented by:



2507 University Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
Phone: 515-271-1910  
Email: raycenter@drake.edu  
TheRayCenter.org  
CharacterCounts.org

CHARACTER COUNTS! and Pursuing Victory With Honor are housed at The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. As a global initiative that transforms lives and strengthens communities, CHARACTER COUNTS! supports our mission to improve civility through character development and ethical leadership.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are trademarks of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.