

# Consequences of Cheating

This lesson gives students an opportunity to explore not only the concept of cheating but the consequences that come with cheating and other dishonest behavior. Students will work in small groups to identify different forms of cheating (both in school and out) and then discuss the possible consequences of each incident. The goal is to demonstrate that cheating can take many forms and there are always consequences, even if the cheater is never caught. Integrity starts from within and is not a product of “getting caught”. This lesson helps demonstrate that.

## Integrity Sub-Concept(s)

Perseverance, Kindness

## Lesson Timeframe

25-30 minutes

## Required Materials

- ❑ Poster paper and art supplies (or at least a big, dark marker so the T-chart displays clearly)
- ❑ Smartboard to play the video clip

## Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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AS A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM  
FOR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING.  
See last page for details.

## Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Explore a variety of ways people cheat and the consequences of their actions.

## Teacher Connection/Self-Care

The final promise within your classroom relates back to our first concept this year- Respect. Promise #4: “I promise to show respect to my students at all times.” This may seem obvious. Of course we respect our students! If we are to be truly honest with ourselves, we can recognize that there will always be some students that are a struggle for us in one way or another. We may have opposite personalities, they may struggle to be in a group setting, there may be behavioral challenges, etc. Regardless of the reason behind it, you must work to ensure that same level of respect for them as for the rest of the class. Take some time with this week’s promise. Examine exactly HOW you show respect to every student. Do your words and actions both inside and outside the classroom convey respect with regards to every student? When discussing difficult matters related to a student, are you able to do so in an honest, yet respectful and compassionate manner? Do you continue to advocate for your students even when the level of respect you are giving is not reciprocated by the student and/or family? Integrity starts with you. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Your kind words and actions make all the difference!

### Tips for Diverse Learners

- Use a graphic organizer to write down key thoughts from the posters as a pre-writing strategy.
- Review the key vocabulary words on the poster sheets; this can serve as a word bank as they write.



## Share

3-5 minutes

*Tell the person next to you about a time you tried to get away with something either at school or at home, but it didn't work. Students may feel more comfortable about sharing if you (the teacher) share something that you tried to get away with when you were a child and it didn't work.*



## Inspire

5-7 minutes

Watch Cheating in School <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjPZ42UJtkk>

If you cannot play the video, you can read the transcript.

Let's talk about this short video clip.

- *Based on what you heard, why is it so dangerous to let someone get to his or her 20th time cheating? What is the difference between the first time a person cheats and the 20th time? (By the 20th time, they don't even care that they are cheating; they do it automatically as a very bad habit.*
- *What are some reasons that kids cheat in school, aside from just not wanting to do their own work? (Too busy, don't like the teacher, want to get into college, everyone is doing it, etc.)*
- *How does cheating hurt other people and not just yourself? (The kids who are studying and doing their own work are at an unfair disadvantage, even though they are doing the right thing. It robs the teacher of his or her ability to be their best, because they think they are teaching well and students are doing well, but if kids are cheating, the teacher cannot measure his or her own effectiveness.)*
- *How might you change your behavior if you have cheated in the past? How does perseverance tie into this?*



## Empower

15-20 minutes

*Cheating has consequences, even if you never get caught or do it so often that it no longer even feels like cheating. That does not change the reality of what you are doing and there are always consequences for our actions even if you don't get caught; remember the teacher's perception of effectiveness? What are some consequences of cheating?*

Cheating can make others angry, they might not trust someone who cheats person, it can lead to lying, it can become a bad habit, it affects how you learn, it could even result in someone being hurt, etc.

Divide students into groups of four and hand each a large poster paper; have students draw a large T-chart on the paper. On the left, have them write "Examples of Cheating" and on the other side "Consequences of Cheating."

*In your groups you are going to think of as many examples of cheating as you can and write them in that column on the sheet. These can be examples at school, in the community, in our nation, or things you have heard about from the news. Then you are going to write down the consequences of that example.*

In your groups assign roles:

- Leader: person to guide the discussion
- Recorder: person to write on the paper
- Reporter: person to tell the rest of the class what the group wrote
- Timer: person to watch the group's time

Walk around the room and encourage students as they think of ideas and consequences. (If students are having trouble thinking of acts of cheating, some examples could include: hiding notes, stealing answers, sharing test questions or answers, speeding, using the carpool lane, illegally downloading music or movies, not using the crosswalk, singing with auto-tune, sneaking into another movie after you've seen one, etc.) After they finish writing, ask the reporter from one group to give one example and consequence, then have a reporter from another group give a different example, etc. If you have time, you can go around the room again. Post the sheets around the classroom (the timer could be assigned this task as well).



## Reflect

5 minutes

*Cheating is something we probably see other people do all the time. We may think it's just something small, but all these small things can break down our integrity. Cheating is not a kind way to act towards other people. Many times when we cheat, someone else has to pay for our actions. Remember our posters from the last lesson; when you are tempted to cheat or when someone wants to cheat off of you, you have support and the words to say to make an honest choice and to preserve your integrity. Make the right choice regarding cheating: just say no! It is never too late.*

To gauge understanding of the material, choose from either the evaluation or reflection questions as discussion, writing or journal prompts. Consider providing additional time for deeper evaluation and reflection as needed.

### Evaluation Questions

- What are some ways people cheat outside of school? What are the consequences of these?
- Who does cheating affect?
- What are the consequences of cheating?

### Reflection Questions

- What can you do to discourage cheating?
- Does cheating threaten your integrity?
- How does it make you feel when you see or hear about someone cheating?



## Extension Ideas

- Ask students to try to catch themselves doing little cheats you think are no big deal (like taking two cookies from the cookie tray at lunch when you know students are only allowed one) and challenge yourself to use your integrity to follow all the rules. Have students write about one example.



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LEARNING.

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.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>

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