

Students 2 Students Toolkit

Help us put power in kids' hands.





In this kit:

This document will help guide you - for personal learning, school activities, discussions, and more - on the best way to engage in activities regarding **equity, equality, and fairness.**

Resources include:

- Definitions of key concepts
- Do's and Don'ts for teachers
- Example Activities
- Reading material/extra resources to create activities

We've all heard the expression

“walk a mile in someone else's shoes”

but what does it actually mean?

Why is **perspective** crucial in understanding one's situation?

Why must our students, most of all, understand it?

What is **fairness**, and how can we ensure we are promoting it?

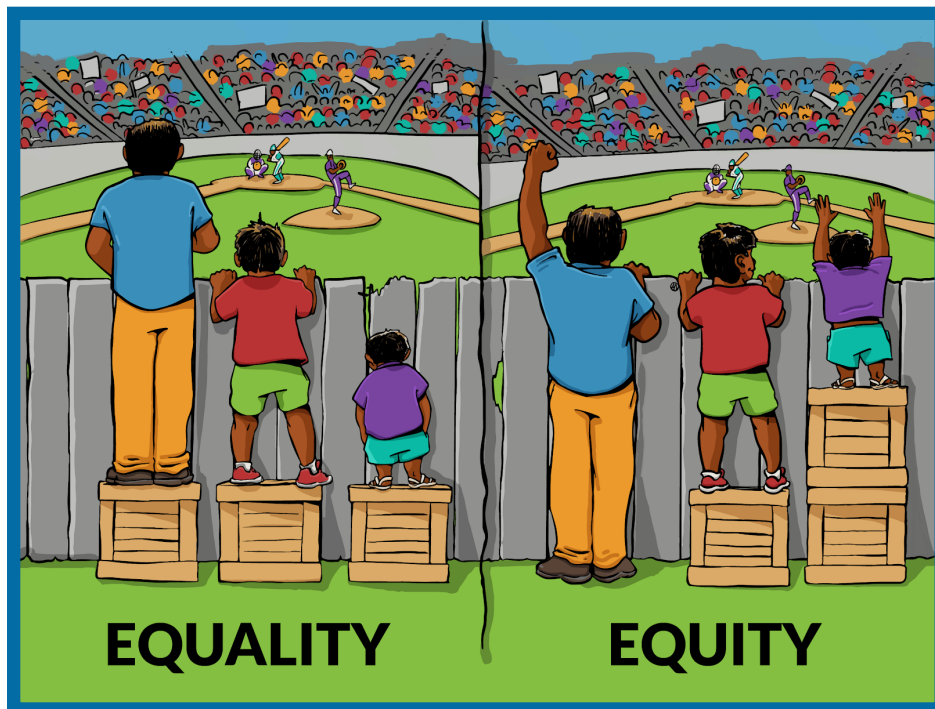
What differentiates **equity** and **equality**, and when should we use them?

EQUITY and EQUALITY

What is equity, and how is it different from equality?

A common misconception is that **equity** and **equality** are the same. When we strive for equality, we address each circumstance in the same way or apply the same solution to each problem. When it comes to equity, however, we think about **fairness**; we take into account the **differences** between each situation and address each issue separately. An equitable approach attempts to get everyone to the same final outcome.

This graphic can help you and your students compare these two terms:



FAIRNESS

How can we promote it?

Fairness can be associated with both equality and equity. Isn't it fair to treat everybody the same, and isn't it **unfair** to give one person more than another? On the other hand, isn't it only fair to address every person's differences and level the playing field?

These are important questions to consider, even if you can't decide on a single answer.

How can we structure a lesson about equity, equality, and fairness?

When teaching these topics, it is crucial to understand your students' backgrounds and **diversity**. Although we are teaching the students about equity and equality, we must still consider the economic and cultural **differences** within our very classrooms. We must always avoid placing any student into an uncomfortable situation regarding these topics.

DO's and DON'Ts

when preparing and teaching a lesson on these topics

DO

- **Do** set aside sufficient time to complete the activity you have planned.
- **Do** allow students to fully express their ideas about the topic without interruption or pressuring to move quicker.
- **Do** express the idea that every individual has a unique background and culture. If it comes up in conversation that some people are “normal” or “average,” feel free to correct it.
- **Do** keep in mind the age of your students. If you are discussing with high school students, you can pose more difficult questions. With elementary and middle schoolers, however, you can keep questions more simple and relatable.
- **Do** set some ground rules: no interrupting, maintain respect, etc.

DON'T

- **Don't** rush through the activity: this may place students in difficult situations as they may feel pressured to speak when they are uncomfortable. If needed, split the activity over multiple days (or longer).
- **Don't** discuss students' home situations. This activity should be separate from the backgrounds of the students. Unless a student asks to share his/her story/situation, refrain from asking or pressuring students about them.
- **Don't** place too many limits on the activity's timing or scope. Each discussion or activity will play out differently, and it is important to give students the time they need to process. You can stop any side-tracking or inappropriate comments, but if it falls within the discussion themes, feel free to allow a student the time to speak their opinion.

ACTIVITIES

Activity #1

Target Students: Grades 3-5

Type: Simulation + Discussion

Materials: Menus (1 per student), play money (in small bills, 10 x number of students)

Purpose: To teach students the value of money in order to foster a discussion about wealth disparity.

Resources:

Process: <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/making-cents-of-privilege>

Menus: <https://cdn.softcafe.com/img/menus96/super-girl-kids-menu-template.png>

Play money: https://www.amazon.com/Learning-Resources-Play-Money-Pieces/dp/B01LZS1L48/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=play+money&qid=1560802904&s=gateway&sr=8-3

For a class of 30 students, 5 of these should suffice.

Remember: you can always have students make the materials out of paper the day prior!

Activity #2

Target Students: Grades 3-5

Type: Simulation + Discussion

Materials: Band-Aids (1 per student)

Purpose: To model equality and equity in relatable situations in order to foster understanding of the topics

Resources:

Process: http://empoweringeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/25-EE_Fairness-and-Equality_Pt1_3-5.pdf

Band-Aids: https://www.amazon.com/Band-Aid-Flexible-Fabric-Adhesive-Bandages/dp/B00006IDL6/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=bandaids&qid=1560863542&s=gateway&sr=8-6&th=1

For a class of up to 100 students, 1 of these is sufficient.

Remember: you can always have students make the materials out of paper the day prior!

Activity #3

Target Students: Grades 9-12

Type: Reading + Discussion

Materials: Printed News Articles

Purpose: To look at segregation and inequality in schools and draw connections between economic disparity and the theme of inequality

Resources:

Article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/02/learning/lesson-plans/still-separate-still-unequal-teaching-about-school-segregation-and-educational-inequality.html>

Notes:

The article suggests 6 activities regarding segregation in schools, but number 3 is especially useful for the topic at hand.

Feel free to pose more discussion questions to students than the ones given in the article.

Activity #4

Target Students: Grades 9-12

Type: Small group readings and discussions + class discussion

Materials: Internet Access

Purpose: To analyze inequity, especially in schools, and the funding gap

Resources:

Process: <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/visualizing-school-equity>

Notes:

This is a good activity to complete in a computer lab or library, where each student has their own computer or other internet access device.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Grades K-5

Lesson: <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/visualizing-school-equity>

Grades 9-12

Lesson: http://schoolreforminitiative.org/doc/equity_stances.pdf

Notes: Feel free to allow students to make up their own characters. This may allow for more diversity and differences than you may already have in the classroom. This will also prevent students from having to give out personal information if they are uncomfortable.

Grades 6-12

Lesson: <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/activityarch.html>

Notes: This site has many different activities that encourage students to respect others' differences. The theme is characterized by promoting multiculturalism.

Grades 3-8

Lesson: <https://teachers.schooldatebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Fairness.pdf>

Grades 6-12

Lesson: <http://justhealthaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/JHA-Lesson-Plan-3-How-are-equity-and-equality-different-final.pdf>

Notes: The discussion points throughout the activity can be looked at more in-depth over a longer period of time. Feel free to stretch this activity over multiple days.

You can always create an activity of your own. Simply introducing the main themes and discussing them will help expand the depth of knowledge students have regarding these important topics. Activities that show students how to promote fairness and equity can also help them consider the relevance of these themes in their own lives.

How can you help fundraise for The Education Partnership?

We've compiled a list of ideas for fundraising campaigns:

Penny Drive: Different classes/grades compete to see who can bring in the most pennies. Pennies give a team positive points, while a team can give nickels, dimes, quarters, and any dollar bills to other teams to take points away from their total.

Bake sale: Parents, students, and staff contribute baked goods for a one-day sale. Students and parents are invited to buy these treats.

Raffle: Sell tickets for the chance to win a particular prize – e.g. a basket of goods, a 50/50 draw for cash, or another prize donated by the community or school.

Trivia Night: Divide participants into teams (or ask them to sign up as teams). Prepare a list of questions based on a particular theme and assign a “quiz master” who can ask the questions. Sell tickets to enter and offer a prize for the winning team.

Bingo: Organize a bingo night and have participants pay to play with prizes for the winners.

Dance-a-thon: Invite students and families to participate in a dance-a-thon. They can collect pledges based on how long they stay on the dance floor! Ensure you have a good playlist of upbeat songs, and consider selling snacks and refreshments for additional cost.

Talent Show: Showcase the talent of your students and faculty by hosting a talent show. Encourage individual or team participation and sell tickets for families and friends to watch.

Dress Down / Jeans Day: Ask for a specific, small donation amount for students and teachers to participate in a Dress Down Day, where they can wear jeans or comfortable clothing instead of the dress code.

Multicultural Fair: Showcase the many delicious foods and unique talents of your students by hosting an event where students can share their cultural traditions/foods with one another. Institute a cost for entry at the fair.

Recipe Book: Have students contribute family recipes and create a single school-wide recipe book. Sell the book to parents and community members.

Art Exhibition: Create an event where student artwork is showcased – set it up as a “pop-up art gallery.” Attendees can bid on the artwork.

Battle of the Bands: Audition local talent to battle it out in a fundraising concert. Many may perform for the exposure alone, so sell tickets to the event. Be sure to have everyone vote on their favorite and give that band a prize.

Teacher/Principal Challenge: See if your principal or favorite teacher will agree to do something drastic – for example, shave his or her head – if you reach a certain fundraising goal.

Movie Night: Sell tickets to a movie on the school’s projector and sell popcorn or other items at a concession stand.

How else can you help The Education Partnership?

There are many other ways you can help outside of fundraising! We've created a list of activities for your class to complete for The Education Partnership where your students can help other students in the program.

Encouraging Notes: Have your students write short encouraging notes to students in other schools. Simple inspirational quotes or statements with a signature can make a big difference. If you have younger students, you can have them decorate the notes with artwork!

Supply Drive: Have students bring in extra school supplies they may have left over from previous years. We will gladly redistribute the supplies to students in other schools who need it.

Teaching our values: Structure a lesson around The Education Partnership's core values: Respect, Integrity, Service, Equity, and Resourcefulness. We've provided some lesson plans for each topic below.

Respect:

- www.indiana.edu/~pbisin/resources/Respect.docx
- <https://teachers.schooldatebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Self-Respect.pdf>

Integrity:

- https://www.goodcharacter.com/high_school/integrity/
- https://www.careergirls.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CLP_Importance_of_Integrity_Lesson_Plan_030716.pdf

Service:

- <https://www.learningtogive.org/units/making-world-more-beautiful-place-kindergarten/making-world-more-beautiful-place-kindergarten>
- <https://www.rootsandshoots.org/lessonplans>

Equity:

- http://empoweringeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/25-EE_Fairness-and-Equality_Pt1_3-5.pdf
- <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/visualizing-school-equity>

Resourcefulness:

- <http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-africa/susbuc/index.html>
- https://www.ctecs.org/sites/default/files/files/%232GoGreen_LP.pdf
- https://www.ctecs.org/sites/default/files/files/%233Design_LP.pdf
- <https://www.pdf-archive.com/2019/06/19/resourcefulness-exercise/resourcefulness-exercise.pdf>

Remember: these resources are available here, but you can always create your own lesson plan structured around our 5 core values!

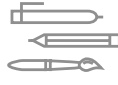
Thank you for all that you do for The Education Partnership!
With your help, we are empowering local students to **learn, grow, and strive** for a brighter future.



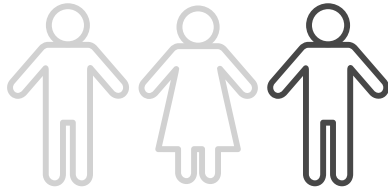
As school
budgets shrink



the burden falls
on families



and kids are left without
the tools they need



1 in 3 kids in our community go
to school without basic school
supplies, like pencils and paper.

**Without supplies, kids can't take part in the
classroom, much less learn and grow.**

Sound shocking? Most people don't realize this is a
problem— which makes solving it even harder.
But that's where we come in.



Think of The Education Partnership as the
go-to resource for school supplies.

We support the most in-need schools in Allegheny and surrounding
counties with simple, proven programs. This year, we distribute **\$4+
million** in critical school supplies.

This school year, we will reach
55,000 kids—but more still need us.

EIN: 90-0438744

Help us reach every child.

TheEducationPartnership.org



80,000+

local kids don't have basic school supplies. Let's fix that.

45K

students

4K

teachers

110

schools

How critical are supplies to **students?**

Of our teachers...



How critical are supplies to **teachers?**

Of our teachers...



* teachers who completed impact survey