

SESSION 4: UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Anticipated Learning Objectives:

Students will understand the legal and social aspects of sexual harassment.

Materials/Equipment:

Understanding Sexual Harassment Handout

Video: Sexual Harassment: What You Can Do

TV/VCR

Procedure:

- ❖ Review the previous session topics, and see if there are any questions or concerns that have occurred to the students since yesterday.
- ❖ Introduce the topic of sexual harassment by asking students if they have ever heard of the term before. Get several examples, and then tell students: “You are about to view a video that will define and discuss the topic of sexual harassment. Please watch carefully and take notes on the video, and jot down any questions or comments that you might want to discuss at the conclusion.”
- ❖ After showing the video, elicit any questions and comments that may have occurred to the students. You may also find it helpful to have students refer to their Timetrackers, where on page 15 students can read (or you can read to them) the present school district policy on sexual harassment.
- ❖ Questions and comments may take until the end of the period. If possible, ask students how they would envision handling a situation of sexual harassment at O’Neill High School. You can ask students to complete the sentence, “If I was being sexually harassed, I would . . .?” Reach for specifics like what school personnel they would feel comfortable approaching, how would they want the situation treated and whether or not they would want their parents involved.
- ❖ At the conclusion of the class, pass out the “Understanding Sexual Harassment” handout to students. Any time remaining can be spent going over handout.

SESSION 4 SUMMARY: There are two basic ways that sexual harassment takes place. The kind you hear about most often is the form where sexual favors are expected in return for something else (job, raise, grade, etc.). The second, more common form, is when a hostile climate is created in a school or workplace through behaviors like unwelcome sexual comments, rumors, jokes, touching, gestures, graffiti, etc. There is no room in any workplace or school for sexual harassment, and there are important steps that victims can and should follow in order to stop the harassment.