



COMMUNICATION STYLES

Practice three communication styles with skits



OBJECTIVES

- Students will explore common communication styles
- Students will consider which style is most effective

MATERIALS

- [Communication Style Skits Handout](#)
Communication Style Articles:
 - [Communication Styles \(option 1\)](#)
 - [Communication Styles \(option 2\)](#)

TIME

30 min

LESSON INTRO

The three communication styles presented (Passive, Assertive, and Aggressive) are taught in the context of addressing conflictual situations through performed skits.

LESSON STEP BY STEP

1. Hand out or display one of the articles on Communication Styles. Choose whichever one you wish!
2. Ask students to annotate the article as they read. Consider:
 - Circling information that is important
 - Underlining information that they already know
 - Starring information that they have a question, wonder, or alternative idea
3. Group students into pods of four to discuss information from the article.
4. Split the class into three small groups and assign each group one of the three communication styles: Passive, Assertive, Aggressive.
5. Hand out the skits for students to read through. Give time for groups to run through a rehearsal and practice their skits.
6. Once groups are ready, invite them up to perform. Students should not initially share which “style” they are presenting.
7. After students perform the skit, have the rest of the class figure out which style is being represented by how the conflict plays out.



VARIATIONS

Instead of using pre-made skits, instruct each group to write their own short skit in a way that characterizes their assigned style. Consider using the sample synopsis' below for a "scene" that the students can base their skit from.

All skits should be based on the same scenario so that students can see a comparison between different ways to handle a situation:

- **Tattoo Parlor:** Customer comes into a tattoo parlor and describes the tattoo they want. The tattoo artist proceeds to give the customer a hideous tattoo that is nothing like the one described. Customer communicates their displeasure with a _____ style.
- **Car Mechanic:** Customer brings car into the mechanic to have a specific issue repaired. When the customer comes back to pick up the car, the mechanic has done entirely the wrong work. Customer communicates their displeasure with a _____ style.
- **Mom's Night Out:** Parent is heading out for the evening, and asks the kids to complete three specific tasks while they are out. The kids play and watch TV instead. When they come home, parent communicates their displeasure with a _____ style.

As students perform the skit, have the rest of the class figure out which style is being represented by how the conflict plays out.

REFLECTION & WRAP UP

Once all groups have performed, have students circle up to discuss:

- What was the most effective style of response in this scenario?
- What specific behaviors (traits) made that style most effective?
- Is there a 'right way' to address conflict?
- When do you usually interact in any of these ways?
- Why can it be difficult to be assertive?
- Think of a specific time when you used a passive or aggressive style. What made that way seem like the best option?

NOTES

- **Educational Standards:** CASEL: Social Awareness, CASEL: Relationship Skills, P21: Communication and Collaboration, P21: Social and Cross-Cultural Skills, CCRS:SL4 Present Information