

WHY IS DIGNITY IMPORTANT?

Students/participants identify people in their lives, community, history, and the modern world who represent someone who either respects and recognizes everyone's dignity, or does not respect and recognize everyone's dignity. They reflect on the impact of positive and negative examples of dignity role models and determine what type of person they would like to be. They conclude the lesson by identifying why dignity is important. During this learning experience, students/participants will practice recognizing dignity in others and consider the importance of dignity both in their own lives and in the world.

ALL AGES | TIME 15 MIN

MATERIALS:

Paper, pencil or pen

DIRECTIONS

IDENTIFY: Ask students/participants to work independently to create two lists, one for people who respect and recognize other people's dignity and one for people who do not respect and recognize other people's dignity. These can be people in their lives, community, stories, history, and/or modern world. Ask students/participants to share some of the names on their lists and write them on the board in two columns. Students snap when they hear names that are good examples.

MAKE CONNECTIONS: Encourage students/participants to make connections by discussing the following questions:

- What are some of the characteristics that people in the "respect and recognize" column share? In the "don't respect and recognize" column?
- What type of impact do/did the people in the first column have on others? In the second column?
- Which column would they like to be listed in? Why? What do they do/will they do to earn a position there? List students' names on the board under the column that they want.



Photo courtesy of Reza Deghati

REFLECTION: Ask students/participants to contemplate the questions, “Why is dignity important to me? To my community? To the world?” After they have thought about this question independently, engage all students in a discussion and document their ideas on the board.

EXTENSIONS OR GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

- Students/participants can post responses to the reflection question to Twitter and use the Global Dignity Day hashtag #dignityday and/or #GlobalDignity.

Connect with our Global Dignity community and explore our Teaching Dignity resources and curriculum at [GLOBALDIGNITY.ORG](https://www.globaldignity.org).