

## SETTING GROUND RULES/NORMS

### Activity Statement:

It is good to establish ground rules for your group. It is best if group members generate their own standards for how they speak to one another, how they should behave in the meetings, and what they expect from one another and the advisor. In this activity, students will work cooperatively to establish reasonable ground rules for the group.

### Procedures:

1. Tell students that the group will need to set a list of ground rules to be followed during all meetings.
2. Write a few samples of ground rules on the board.

### Examples of Ground Rules:

- One person speaks at a time
- Respect others' opinion: You can agree to disagree
- Give full attention to a group member when he/she speaks
- No putdowns of yourself or others
- Advisory meetings will start on time
- Respect people's privacy. Say, "I know someone who...." (instead of naming names)
- Do not blame or judge
- There are no stupid questions or statements

3. Ask students to brainstorm additional rules. Add these to the list.

### Additional Resources:

<http://www.goodgroupdecisions.com/GroundRules.aspx> (group decisions)

<http://www.betterworkplacenow.com/ganda6.html> (better work place)

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/lessonplans/groundrules.htm> (advocates for youth)

This lesson was adapted from:

Lyons County School District, NV (9-12) Curriculum and Accountability Lessons

<http://www.lyon.k12.nv.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=1006&>