



# Sportsmanship

**SPORTSMANSHIP** means to play fair, show respect for opponents, and behave courteously whether winning or losing.

## LESSON 1

Read the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Explain that sportsmanship applies to all contests and games, whether on a sporting field, in class, or at home. Ask students to identify how to show good sportsmanship in classroom competitions and discuss their ideas. If time allows, divide the class into two teams and play a game such as Hangman (using vocabulary words) or Pictionary (using verbs or nouns) to allow students to practice being good sports. Look for opportunities to reinforce good behavior, by praising students for taking turns, encouraging each other, playing fairly, congratulating their opponent, not bragging or gloating, not arguing, etc.

*School/Home Link Ask students to play a game of Tic Tac Toe with a family member and practice being good sports.*

## LESSON 2

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Read: **Good sportsmanship should be a part of every game, whether you win or lose. How can you show good sportsmanship when you win a competition? (Allow time for discussion.) How can you show good sportsmanship when you lose?** (Allow time for discussion) Ideas to discuss include: don't gloat or show off, don't argue with the officials or your coaches, follow the rules, don't lose your temper, help others to do their best, encourage and respect your opponents and teammates, recognize good plays no matter who makes it, give everyone an opportunity to participate rather than hogging the ball, etc. If time allows, have students role-play their ideas to illustrate what good and bad sportsmanship looks like.

*School/Home Link Have students talk with a family member about how they can be good sports whether they win or lose.*

## LESSON 3

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Have students create "Poor Sportsmanship Blockers". Give students a sheet of plain paper or construction paper. Ask students to draw a blocker or buster symbol (circle with a line through it) placing the following "Do NOT" statements inside the symbol, such as: Pout! Criticize! Make excuses! Blame others! Argue! Trash talk! Cheat, etc. Display the signs in the classroom as a constant reminder to avoid poor sportsmanship behavior.

*School/Home Link Ask students to share their "Poor Sportsmanship Blocker" ideas with a family member.*

## LESSON 4

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Read and discuss the following quote by tennis player Jim Courier: **"Sportsmanship for me is when a guy walks off the court and you really can't tell whether he won or lost, when he carries himself with pride either way."** Teach students that good sportsmanship includes being courteous and respectful whether they win or lose.

Ask for volunteers to role-play different behaviors they have seen following sporting events, such as players shaking hands with the their opponents, complimenting teammates as well as opponents for good plays, taking responsibility for mistakes, playing hard even when losing, etc. Encourage students to show self-respect and respect for others by being a good sport.

*School/Home Link Ask students to share and discuss the quote by Jim Courier with a family member.*

## LESSON 5

Review the definition of **SPORTSMANSHIP**. Have students create a good sportsmanship chain for the class. Give students different colors of construction paper. Have them cut strips about two inches wide. Ask them to write a characteristic or behavior of good sportsmanship on each strip. Examples may include: courage to do the right thing, encourage others regardless of their skill level, have fun, follow the rules, be considerate of others, respect coaches and teammates, and have self-control. Show students how to glue their strips together linking them through one another. Connect the students' links together using extra strips to make a class sportsmanship chain. Display the chain in the room.

*School/Home Link Make a sportsmanship chain at home with a family member.*

## Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-2-M6, ELA-4-M2, ELA-4-M4, ELA-4-M5 ELA-4-M7 ELA-7-M2, LA-1-M1, ELA-1-M4, ELA-7-M1, ELA-3-M, C1-A-M7, C1-B-M5