



# **Social Skills**

## **Impressions and Altruism**

Available in the format below:



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## Impressions and Altruism

I speak to my students often about altruism. I give them two reasons they should be altruistic: first, being kind to people and animals is the right thing to do, and second, it's in their self-interest. I tell them they will benefit from being kind. It will give others a good impression of them, which can lead to friendships, romantic relationships, comfortable interactions with acquaintances and strangers, and professional connections and promotions. The *Impressions and Altruism* activity also considers the other person's feelings in various situations. Given five straightforward social interactions, students take turns rolling a die to find out with whom they are interacting. They then answer five questions involving what they can say or do so that both they and the other person in the interaction can benefit. Note that in some situations what can benefit the other person is of less importance, such as when interacting with a job interviewer or a doctor.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Impressions and Altruism

**Directions:** For each of the following scenarios, roll a die to determine who is in the situation with you. Then answer each of the following questions:

- How do you want the other person to feel? (name feelings)
- What do you want the other person to have? (name nouns or verbs)
- What impression do you want to give? (name adjectives)
- What do you want from the other person? (name nouns or verbs)
- What can you say or do to achieve the above?

After you aced your algebra exam, you're speaking with:

- 1 — your friend who struggles with math
- 2 — your algebra teacher
- 3 — your dad who's an accountant
- 4 — your tutor
- 5 — your mom who won't let you use your phone past 9 p.m.
- 6 — a job interviewer for a cashier job

You are asked, "Tell me about yourself" by:

- 1 — your grandma
- 2 — a job interviewer
- 3 — your long-lost identical twin
- 4 — your doctor
- 5 — your date during the first time you're going out
- 6 — your date's scary-looking dad



You have a really bad sunburn and are speaking with:

- 1 — a dermatologist at your appointment
- 2 — a burn victim in the dermatologist's waiting room
- 3 — your mom who told you to use sunscreen but you didn't
- 4 — your friend who had talked you into using olive oil to get a better tan
- 5 — your grandma who keeps trying to hug you
- 6 — a new neighbor who offers you a homemade salve

You are asked, "What do you hope you get for your birthday?" by:

- 1 — your mom
- 2 — your teacher
- 3 — your friend who's broke
- 4 — your grandma who lives in a senior residence
- 5 — your ten-year-old brother
- 6 — your divorced dad's new boyfriend

You caused a minor car accident and are speaking with:

- 1 — your mom when you get home
- 2 — your dad in the passenger seat
- 3 — a police officer that arrived on the scene
- 4 — the person driving the other car
- 5 — the paramedic tending to your broken arm
- 6 — your teenaged child in the future

