

Safe Room Introductory & Wrap-up Questions

Introductory Questions

I'm glad you came in. I'm sorry this has happened to you (your school).

How did you know _____? How did you learn of _____'s death?

Yes, what happened is horrible. It may seem that things will never be the same again, but they will OK at some point, maybe in a new way.

Did you know _____ or are you feeling sad about another death?

I didn't know _____. Can you tell me what she (or he) was like?

It isn't your fault. (If the student was directly involved in a way that makes this uncertain, get a trained counselor for this student.)

What are some of your favorite memories of _____? What will you miss most?

What is the most painful part about this right now?

Phrases to avoid:

- *I know how you feel.*
- *She (or he) led a good life...It was God's will. (Avoid platitudes).*
- *At least she (or he) didn't suffer.*

Wrap-up Questions

What's the hardest part about this right now? What are your greatest fears (or concerns) ?

What's going to happen when you get home tonight? Is there someone who will listen?

Will your family support will be different than the Safe Room support today?

Who is your support system? Are there people you can call?

If you wake up in night and feel scared, could you wake your parents?
(Encourage them to check this out with parents.)

Who will be here for you at school tomorrow -- who can you talk to?

Is there anything we could do that we haven't thought of?

- Distribute handouts on self-care.
- Maybe suggest to kids that they exchange phone numbers so they talk after school.