

www.jencort.com
jencortedcon@gmail.com
301-318-2330

Dear Educator,

I am passionate about advisory discussions for all ages and am happy to share these free lessons with you.

Lessons Topics Include:

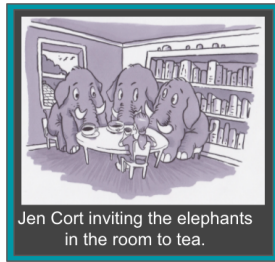
- Understanding Equity, Equality and Justice
- Expressing Strong Feelings So All Can Hear
- Exploring Fairness, Sameness, and Differences
- Being Critical Consumers of Information
- Being A Change Agent
- Making Decisions versus Having Reactions
- Labeling and Unlabeling Others

Please share these lessons with others and provide feedback on how they work for you!

For the full list of lessons and resources, please visit my website at <http://www.jencort.com/elections>. Please let me know how these work for you!



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Elementary School Same and Different

Election Connection: Throughout the campaign words such as 'same' and 'different' have been used in both positive *and* negative lights. As teachers, we help students appreciate the strengths and challenges of 'same' and 'different'.

Objective:

Students will increase understanding between the qualities and characteristics which are the 'same' and those which are 'different'

Preparation:

Time: 10 minutes to read lesson

Materials: Images (optional - different kinds of apples)

Lesson Steps:

1. Gather the class in a circle
2. Discuss the meaning of the words 'same' and 'different' make a list for each
3. Prompts:
 - a. Ask questions such as:
 - i. What do you think it would be like if every movie you watched, every dinner you ate, every shirt you wore were exactly the same?
 - ii. What do we like about things being the same? (**Answers should include but not be limited to:** comfortable, familiar, easier. **Note:** Draw out feeling words - [feeling list](#) provided for reference)
 - iii. Have you ever tried to do something different and you were nervous because it was new, but you ended up liking it? What did you think and feel? **Answers should include but not be limited**

to: Uncomfortable, unfamiliar, takes more effort. (**Note:** Draw out feeling words.)

- iv. How do we feel when some things are different and others are the same? For example, maybe your dinner one night had three things you like and one new thing?

Print this picture (large size to show to the class)



- b. Look at this picture.

- i. Everything in this picture is the same in what ways? (**Answers should include but not be limited to:** They are all fruits, they are all apples)
- ii. How is each row of apples different from the others? (**Answers should include but not be limited to:** Each row is a different color)
- iii. Do you think they all taste the same? (**Answers should include but not be limited to:** Different apples have different tastes)
- iv. Look closely at one row, are they all exactly the same? (**Answers should include but not be limited to:** There are slight differences between them)
- v. What about people, how are we similar and different? (**Answers should include but not be limited to:** We might look similar, but are different. We might be different and that is what makes us interesting. Even if we seem similar from a distance, up close we are different).

Print this picture (large size to show to the class)



- vi. How can we treat each other so that all of our differences are loved? Make a list for the class to review.

Parent note:

We have heard concerns about the impact of the election on our students. We recognize that focusing our time only on the election process dilutes the elasticity of the skills we want to stretch beyond the election cycle. Therefore we are spending our time on skills relating to the topics through an “Election Connection”.

Please ask your child about these images. We looked at the the first picture and talked about how things may fall into the same categories, such as “all of these are apples”. We then looked closer and noted each row was actually different in color and probably different in taste. We can also see that even within the same row, there are differences. We wondered what it would be like if every day, every meal, every movie were the same, would it be as interesting? Our hope is to create a classroom space where everyone’s differences and similarities are appreciated and we welcome your partnership.

**Resources:**

For resources on talking about the election with your child you might want to visit <http://www.jencort.com/elections>.