What’s Your Style?

Conflict is a normal part of life. We each have our own way of dealing with it which is influenced by our temperament, personality, environment, stage of life, etc. If we recognize our conflict management style we can understand the impact it has on the way we deal with conflict. If we are aware of the other styles of conflict management we can draw upon them to resolve the conflict if one of the other styles is more appropriate for the situation.

Disagreeing Projectable 3.4.1.

SAY: We’ve focused much of our time in Lions Quest working on relationship building and dealing with various kinds of conflict. Conflict is a normal part of life, and today’s lesson will take a closer look at how our personal style in handling conflict can improve our relationships.

Display Discovering Projectable 3.4.1.

ASK: For example; as you graduate and either go to college or move into the job market you may soon end up living on your own, and that often involves living with a roommate. Let’s say you’re living with three roommates and one of them is constantly bringing over their boy/girlfriend. Their boy/girlfriend eats all of the food in the apartment and never asks permission or replaces the food. Everyone else is getting pretty upset but doesn’t want to cause a conflict. How do you handle the situation?

The students can either raise their hand, or get up and join a group of those who responded identically, as they answer the following questions. Let them know there are no right/wrong or good/bad answers.

• Who would try to get everyone to agree on a win-win solution?
• Who would try to avoid the whole issue and let someone else handle it?
• Who would tell their roommate bluntly that their boy/girlfriend should stop eating other’s food? Period/end of discussion!
• Who would try to smooth over the conflict so that everyone got along?
• Who would try to compromise and reach a middle ground so that both sides give up something?

Tell students that they may have identified which conflict style they use when they deal with conflict, which is the focus of today’s lesson.

Identify your conflict management style

Distribute Student Handout: Connecting and explain that you’d like them to complete the short quiz to find out more about their individual conflict management style. Tell the class that this is not a formal scientific analysis,
just an informal look at how they handle conflict. Allow five minutes for the class to complete the quiz.

After the students have added the total points, use the following questions to discuss the quiz.

- What is your preferred conflict management style? (Ask for a show of hands for each type).
- What is your least preferred conflict management style?
- Do you agree with the results of the assessment?
- Were there any surprises?

Display Connecting Projectable 3.4.2. Review the Projectable and discuss the different styles of dealing with conflict in more detail, including the pros and cons of each style.

PRACTICING 20 MINUTES

ASK: Would you ever change your conflict style depending on the situation? What would it take for you to change your conflict management style?

Distribute Student Handout: Practicing. Review the instructions and monitor the students as they complete the handout. When finished use the following questions as you review each of the scenarios. (You may assign each group only one or two scenarios to save time.)

- For each of the scenarios what do you think would be the best conflict style to use?
- Does that match your conflict style?
- What outcome would result if some of the other styles were used?
- Which scenario would be the hardest/most uncomfortable for you to deal with? Why?

Reflecting

Display Reflecting Projectable 3.4.3. Students use their class notebooks to reflect individually and as a class on what they learned in this lesson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What?</th>
<th>What conflict style do you use most often?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>So What?</td>
<td>How is this conflict style working for you? What would it take for you to change your conflict style?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now What?</td>
<td>How would using a new style affect your relationships?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ASSESSING**

**PRACTICING (INFORMAL FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT)** Observe the students as they complete the Practicing Activity to assess how well they understand the different types of conflict management style.

**APPLYING (FORMAL FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT)** Review the Student Handout: Applying to assess how well students understand the lesson objectives.

Then ask students to complete Student Handout: Applying. Invite them to share their work with the class.

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**BUILDING SKILLS BEYOND THE LESSON**

**Predict It!**

**PRACTICING** Have students use one of the scenarios from the Practicing Activity to predict how the conflict would have been resolved using their preferred style as well as their least preferred conflict style of conflict management. It may be written or oral.

**Word Search!**

**PRACTICING** Have students complete the Conflict Management Style Word Search found on the Digital Resources.

**Identify It!**

**APPLYING** Have students write a short description of what they believe is the preferred conflict management style of their closest friends. How do their styles positively and negatively impact their friendship?

**What Works Best!**

**APPLYING** Have students write an explanation that supports which conflict management style they feel works best for the following professions/jobs: law enforcement, lawyer, nurse, teacher, retail worker, sales, principal, waiter, etc.