Conflicts are a part of everyday life, so how we handle them is important. These activities will help your students understand conflicts and how to manage them, so that they can learn to solve problems without letting anger get the best of them.

Related KidsHealth Links

**Articles for Kids:**
- **Dealing with Anger**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/anger.html
- **Train Your Temper**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/temper.html
- **Saying You’re Sorry**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/sorry.html
- **Getting Along With Teachers**
- **Getting Along with Parents**
  KidsHealth.org/en/kids/parents.html

**Articles for Teens:**
- **Dealing With Anger**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/deal-with-anger.html
- **Managing Your Emotional Reactions**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/emotional-reactions.html
- **5 Ways to (Respectfully) Disagree**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/tips-disagree.html
- **Apologizing**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/apologies.html
- **Getting Along With Teachers**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/teacher-relationships.html
- **Talking to Your Parents—or Other Adults**
  TeensHealth.org/en/teens/talk-to-parents.html

**Discussion Questions**

*Note: The following questions are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.*

1. Does getting angry help solve disagreements and arguments? Name some ways to handle anger?

2. When you have a problem with a friend or classmate, what steps do you take to solve it?

3. A main goal of conflict resolution is to solve problems before they lead to verbal abuse or violence. What things can people say and do to achieve that goal?
Activities for Students

Note: The following activities are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

Anger Management

Objectives:
Students will:
• Discover a problem-solving approach for handling anger

Materials:
• Computer with Internet access
• Posters and art materials, or graphic design software

Class Time:
1½ to 2 hours

Activity:
You just got your science test back and you're furious about the low grade - especially because you studied so much! Before you blow your stack, read the KidsHealth.org articles to learn about anger and how to handle it effectively. Working in small groups, develop a brief anger-management training session for middle school students. Be sure to cover the following:

• Basic information about what anger is
• Steps kids and teens can take to control anger

Extension:
1. Create a posters or infographics for your training session that lists tips for managing anger. Hang the posters around school, and share the infographic on social media.
Working It Out

Objectives:
Students will:
- Learn how to disagree respectfully with others
- Discover effective ways to communicate about problems
- Identify strategies for solving problems

Materials:
- Computer with Internet access
- "Working It Out" handout

Class Time:
30 minutes

Activity:
Conflicts arise every day, so it’s important to know how to handle them. Use the KidsHealth.org articles to research how to communicate your feelings in a positive way. Next read the scenarios on the "Working It Out" handout. Choose two scenarios, identify the conflicts, and role-play the arguments and their resolutions. Remember that a solution doesn’t necessarily mean that everyone agrees!

Extension:
1. Select a conflict you see on TV show or movie and analyze how problem-solving is portrayed. What’s the conflict? What strategies do the characters use to solve the problem? Are they effective strategies for solving the conflict peacefully? What strategies might the characters use instead? Finally, what effect do you think the media has on how people handle their problems?

Reproducible Materials
Handout: Working It Out
KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/personal/growing/conflict_resolution_handout1.pdf
Working It Out

Instructions: Use the articles at KidsHealth to research how to communicate your feelings in a positive way. Choose two scenarios from the choices below, identify the conflicts, and role-play the arguments and their resolutions. Remember, a solution doesn't necessarily mean that everyone agrees!

1. While getting ready for school, you notice your favorite sweater is missing. You figure your younger sister borrowed it, so you ask her where it is. She reluctantly pulls it out from under her bed, with a big stain on the front of it.

2. When you come home from school, your mom is upset because she thinks you broke her favorite vase without telling her about it. She automatically grounds you, but you know it was actually your brother who did it.

3. You want to go to the movies with your friends Friday, but your parents have a different idea: They want you to go with them.

4. A classmate has asked you for the twentieth time to borrow a pen. Every time you lend her one, you don’t get it back, so this time you say no. She gets angry and starts to yell at you.

5. You and your best friend have plans for the weekend, and you’ve been looking forward to hanging out all week. On Friday afternoon, your friend tells you you’ll have to do it another time because he’s doing something with someone else.