

Freshmen
January 3, 2017

Objective: Students will understand that in high school they will be expected to know when they do not understand a concept or cannot perform a skill and to proactively ask for help.

Resources Needed for this Activity:

- Picture of Light Bulb Over Head – Project onto screen.
- Large piece of paper and writing instruments (markers) to create a visual
- “Prize” for the best created picture - this can be a teacher created certificate, or something the advisor feels will be a “fun” incentive for competition

Assignment(s):

Assignment	Standard(s)	Points	Assigned	Due
Identifying When You Need Help	CS.PS.01 Identify problems and locate information that may lead to solutions.	5	1/3/17	1/3/17

Objective: The students come up with a visual cue that can symbolize the moment they realize they may not be understanding material in class. The purpose of this activity – like all of these sessions – is to make clear that in this school asking for help is expected and accepted as a good thing, not as evidence of limited ability or an indication of bad teaching.

Opening: 5 minutes – A picture of a person with a light bulb over his head is projected on the screen. Students are asked what the symbol of a light bulb over someone’s head usually means.

The group offers answers and the advisor ensures discussion of the idea that a light bulb indicates a moment of understanding.

The advisor explains that while the light bulb is a widely accepted symbol of a moment of understanding, there is no widely recognized symbol of a moment when someone realizes they *do not* understand something.

Activity: 20 minutes – Students are going to work in groups of three or four to come up with just such a visual symbol to indicate when they don’t understand something. The advisors tell the students there will be a prize for the best idea and graphic.

Students are given a piece of larger paper and markers or other necessary art supplies. They are given time to create their symbols in groups. Groups come up to the front of the class to share their visual symbols.

The class votes for the best group.

Closure: 5 minutes – The advisor tells the class to always look out for the next moment when the symbol they selected appears in their heads – or magically above them – to indicate that they aren’t understanding something. And then the advisor stresses that the students must **DO SOMETHING** about that, which is the subject they will cover in the final session of the Seeking Help in High School series in advisory.