



Orientation Activity: Hopes and Fears

Activity Description

Once all the students are paired, the bus route group leader should tell the students that in order to have a good year on the school bus, they need to have a goal. To have a goal, they must picture in their minds what things would look and sound like if that goal was achieved. Students are encouraged to use their imaginations to create a “movie” in their minds of what a peaceful school bus would look and sound like.

Activity Directions

1. Using an overhead transparency or a large piece of chart paper, draw a large T on the page. On one side of the T, write the words “Looks Like” and on the other side write the words “Sounds Like.” For example:

Looks Like	Sounds Like
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2. Brainstorm with the students about what a peaceful, enjoyable school bus would look like and sound like, saying: **I see in my mind students sitting in their seats and they are talking in a positive way to each other. I see students smiling. I hear students talking about how their team did or what they had for homework.**
3. Once you have gotten the discussion started, ask students to share a few ideas as well.
4. Write the ideas students have in the columns on the transparency or chart paper.



For example:

Looks Like	Sounds Like
Students sitting	"What do you have for homework?"
Smiles on faces	Low voices
Students helping each other	"What are you going to do tonight?"

5. Give each pair a copy of the "A Peaceful School Bus" handout (page 4) and a pencil. Ask each pair to complete the handout together.
6. Then give each pair a copy of the "An Unpeaceful School Bus" handout (page 5). Ask them to do the same exercise, but this time describe what an imaginary school bus that was not peaceful would look like and sound like.
7. When all the pairs have completed their handouts (give them about five to seven minutes per handout), have students place their handouts on the floor or on their desks faceup and, in pairs, walk around the room reading what other pairs have written. Allow about five minutes for this review.
8. Signal for attention and have the pairs return to where they started with their two handouts in front of them. Have them sit down in these locations.

Present Hopes and Fears Chart

1. On an overhead transparency or a large piece of chart paper, create another T diagram with the word "Hopes" on one side and the word "Fears" on the other side. For example:

Hopes	Fears
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2. Ask students to share some of the things they wrote on their “A Peaceful School Bus” handout. Write these things under the Hopes column.
3. Then ask students to share some of the things they wrote on their “An Unpeaceful School Bus” handout. Write these things under the Fears column.
4. Say: **It is up to each one of you to decide if the Hopes or the Fears will come true on your school bus. Your actions and your words will make the difference between what you want or hope will happen, and what you are afraid will happen.**
5. Draw a large oval at the bottom on the Hopes and Fears chart. Inside the oval, write, “What we agree to do to make our hopes come true.”
6. Allow students to think about what needs to go in the oval. What is put in the oval will make the difference in helping them achieve their goal of having a peaceful school bus.
7. Allow a few students to share their ideas of what should be written in the oval. Write six to eight of their ideas in the oval. Then ask for a show of hands to see if the group agrees to act in these ways.
8. Ask the bus driver, if available, for help in deciding which of the items in the oval the bus group members should focus on during the school year.
9. Compare the items listed in the oval to your Peaceful School Bus Rules. Point out their similarities with each other. Most likely if they honor the ideas they wrote in the oval, they will be honoring the Peaceful School Bus Rules.

Optional: Post a copy of the Hopes and Fears chart in the school bus.

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A Peaceful School Bus

Looks Like

Sounds Like



An Unpeaceful School Bus

Looks Like

Sounds Like