



ETHICS AND PEER EDUCATORS*

▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

 **Time:** 30 minutes

 **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe what is Ethics;
- Identify ethical standards that peer educators should follow.

 **Training Methods:** Small Group Brainstorm, Large Group Discussion

 **In This Activity You Will...**

- Elicit the definition of ethics (10 minutes).
- Assign participants in 3 groups to brainstorm responses to questions (10 minutes).
- Lead group discussion of answers and summarize activity (10 minutes).

 **Materials:**

- Newsprint
- Markers
- Masking Tape
- Handout – Ethical Standards for Peer Educators

(continued next page)

Instructions

Introduce the activity by explaining that participants will be assigned to small groups to brainstorm a list of Ethics and standards for Peer Educators to follow.

1. Assign participants to 3 groups by counting off 1-3 until all participants are assigned to a group.
2. Assign a space in the room for each group. Ask participants to go to their assigned group in the respective space.
3. Give each small group a piece of prepared newsprint that has the 3 questions written on it.
4. Ask each group to appoint a reporter and a recorder.
5. Instruct group to use the newsprint to brainstorm answers to the question.
6. Tell the group they will have about 10 minutes to do this activity.
7. Bring the entire group back together and ask each reporter to go over his or her group's work.
8. Ask open-ended questions to draw out their thoughts on the Ethical Standards that Peer Educators should follow. Potential answers to brainstorming Ethical Standards for Peer Educators:
 - Ethics are principles that govern right and wrong practices and moral conduct.
9. Discuss any other brainstorming answers to all the questions
10. Review Ethical Standards for Peer Educators handout.

* This module is part of the online toolkit *Building Blocks to Peer Success*. For more information, visit http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit. This module comes from the Missouri People to People Training Manual, 2008.

ETHICS AND PEER EDUCATORS

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY (CONT.)



Preparation:

- Write the following questions on 3 pieces of newsprint (one for each group):
What are Ethics?
Why are they important?
What are some ethical standards peers should follow in working with clients?

Summary

- Ask participants if they now understand how important ethical standards are in the work that peer educators do with clients.
- Explain to participants that ethical standards help new peer educators in the management of peer/client relationship.
- Explain that ethical standards provides the general public information that they can to hold peer educators accountable.

ETHICS AND PEER EDUCATORS

SESSION HANDOUT

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PEER EDUCATORS

These principles may include but are not limited to:

Propriety	The Peer Educator shall maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity as a Peer Educator.
Competence and Professional Development	The Peer Educator shall strive to become and remain proficient in the performance of his/her professional function.
Integrity	The Peer Educator shall act in accordance with the standards of professional integrity.
Privacy of Client's Interests	The Peer Educator's primary responsibility is to client's rights and prerogatives as well as their general health and well being. The Peer Educator shall make every effort to foster maximum self-determination/empowerment on the part of clients.
Confidentiality and Privacy	The Peer Educator shall respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.
Respect, Fairness and Courtesy	The Peer Educator should treat clients and colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith.
Community Service	The Peer Educator should assist in making Treatment Advocacy/Education services available to the general public.
Employment Commitments	The Peer Educator should adhere to commitments made to the employing organization
Maintain Integrity	The Peer Educator shall uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the Peer Program.
Knowledge Development	The Peer Educator shall take responsibility in continuing his/her education/training to provide peer services.

Edited and adapted from the Standards of Care Committee, HIV/AIDS Treatment Advocacy/Education, Los Angeles County Commission on HIV Health Services.