

HATE STiNKS

De-escalation Scripts

In each of the HATE STiNKS videos, the teenager who commits a hateful antisemitic act is rejected by his peers (in one video, even his parents reject the stink ball!).

What can we do to make sure we don't turn into stink balls?

Follow the "Pause and Think" Method

Before you speak, ask yourself:

1. **Is it true?** No Antisemitic stereotypes are lies.
2. Is it kind? No.
3. Is it necessary? No.

Let's look at what to do instead of walking away:

What to say instead of walking away

Walking away is sometimes necessary for safety, but **if you feel safe**, "airing it out" with words is powerful. Here are three different approaches:

- **The "Impact" Statement:** Focus on the result, not the person's character. "You might think that's a joke, but it's actually a really old hate symbol. It makes this school feel unsafe for a lot of people."
- **The "Educational" Question:** Make them think about their source. "Why would you want to repeat something like that? Do you actually know the history behind those words?"
- **The "Standard" Setter:** Remind them of the group's values. "We don't do that here. That's not how we treat people in this class."

Understanding the person who acted out

It is important for children to understand *why* someone acts this way. This helps them feel less intimidated and more empathetic.

Why is the person acting this way?:

- **They might be seeking attention:** Sometimes kids use "shocking" language or symbols because they want to feel powerful or get a reaction.
- **They might be misinformed:** They may have seen something on online, or even from their own circle, and are repeating it without understanding that it is hateful.

- **How they feel inside:** Often, people who act out with hate are feeling insecure. They try to "push others down" to make themselves feel like they are "on top" or part of an "in-group."

What we can say about their feelings

The person who acted this way might feel powerful for a second, but deep down, they are often lonely or confused. When their friends walk away or call them out, that 'stink ball' feeling of being excluded is exactly what they were trying to avoid. They usually feel a mix of embarrassment and defensiveness.

How to help the person who acted out change

If the person is a friend, you can offer them a way back:

- **The "Check-In":** "Hey, I noticed you've been saying some pretty mean things lately. That's not the person I know. Is everything okay?"
- **The "Invite to Do Better":** "I know you're smarter than that joke. Let's just drop the hate stuff and go play [game]."