

Violations of Human Dignity in School – Sample Answer

Think about one example in which persons are treated as objects or their dignity is disrespected at school. Explain why this situation is not respectful of their dignity. Propose a solution for how the class should deal with this situation.

Description of the situation	Why it is disrespectful of human dignity	Possible solutions
<p>A student who is not very outgoing and who studies hard is often called a “nerd” and teased by other students. A group of “cool” guys from our class and some other classes are often making fun of him in front of others. Sometimes this also turns into bullying and some form of physical violence (e.g. slapping him, throwing his things around). Most of the other students are usually just standing by not doing anything. Some are laughing at this, some feel uncomfortable but don’t say anything.</p>	<p>Calling someone names that are intended to undermine their confidence, is not respecting their dignity. Calling someone a “nerd” does not respect their dignity as it ignores how a person will feel. Making fun of someone is a way of treating someone as an object, to be used for a joke or a laugh. They are also treating this person as an object instead of a subject, if they are not talking to him, but at him; they are not trying to develop a relationship with him.</p>	<p>Those who stand by and look at how the student is being bullied should stand up and say that what’s happening is not right.</p> <p>They should also report to educators if the situation continues to happen.</p> <p>Those in the group of “cool” kids who feel that what they are doing is not right, should motivate the group to find another kind of amusement which will not be disrespectful of anyone’s human dignity (e.g. sports, dance, physical exercise etc.).</p>