

Suggestions for Classroom Activities After a Loss

- Classroom discussion
- Writing a eulogy
- Designing a yearbook page commemorating the deceased
- Honouring the deceased by collecting memorabilia for the trophy cabinet.
- Writing stories about the victim or the incident.
- Drawing pictures of the incident.
- Debating controversial issues.
- Investigating laws governing similar incidents.
- Creating a sculpture.
- Creating a class banner in memoriam.
- Building a fitness course, a sign for the school, or a bulletin board in memory.
- Discussing ways to cope with traumatic situations.
- Discussing the stages of grief.
- Conducting a mock trial if laws were broken.
- Starting a new school activity such as SADD unit if a child was killed by a drunk driver.
- Encouraging students to keep a journal of events and of their reactions, especially in an on-going situation.
- Placing a collection box in the class for notes to the family.
- Urging students to write the things they wish they could have said to the deceased.
- Practicing and composing a song in memory of the deceased.
- Discussing alternatives for coping with depression, if suicide is involved.
- Analyzing why people take drugs and suggesting ways to help abusers. If substance abuse related.
- Writing a reaction paper.
- Writing a “where I was when it happened” report.
- Discussing historical precedents about issues related to crisis.
- Reading to the class (see Bibliography of Resource Materials page 123).
- Encouraging mutual support.
- Discussing and preparing children for funeral (what to expect, people’s reactions, what to do, what to say).

- Directing energy to creative pursuits, physical exercise, or verbal expression when anger arises.
- Creating a class story relevant to the issue