

Understanding Stress and Anxiety

Student Handout GRADE 8 | Unit 3 | Lesson 14

Name:	Date:
Vocabulary	
 Stress (n.) an emotional and/or physical response to something external, test, or a fight with a friend Anxiety (n.) persistent, excess worry that feels out of your control 	such as an upcoming
Warm-Up	
Imagine you're stepping in front of the class to give a presentation.	
What's happening to your:	
1. Emotions:	
2. Thoughts:	
3. Body:	

Activity

Instructions

- 1. Write how these situations might affect your emotions, thoughts, and body in each of the appropriate columns.
- 2. With a partner, compare your responses.
- 3. Circle the stressors in the table that cause you the most stress.

Situation	Emotions	Thoughts	Body
A big test			
Starting high school			

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Activity (cont.)

Situation	Emotions	Thoughts	Body
Having a conflict with a good friend			
A family member being ill			

Wrap-Up

How do you know when you're stressed? What clues do you get from your emotions, thoughts, and body?		

Where Does Stress Come From?

Student Handout GRADE 8 | Unit 3 | Lesson 15

Name:	Date:
Vocabulary	
Stressor (n.) something that causes stress	

Warm-Up

Instructions: With a partner, take turns asking each other which thing you'd rather do in the list below. Put a check mark next to your choices.

Would you rather...

Take a math test **OR** write a 1000-word essay?

Give a speech in front of 500 people **OR** talk with a classmate you don't know that well?

Play in the final game for the championship **OR** learn to play a new sport?

Come to school with a bad haircut **OR** go to a party where you don't know anyone?

Activity

1. With a partner, list common stressors for each category.

School	Home	Social	World
Homework	Family illness	Mean posts	Climate change



Where Does Stress Come From?

Activity (cont.)

- 2. Write a "C" next to the stressors you listed in the table that you can control and an "NC" next to the stressors you listed that you can't control.
- 3. Circle the stressors you wrote that cause you the most stress.

Wrap-Up

- 1. What's one stressor in your life that you would like to work on managing? 2. What's in your control about this stressor? 3. What's out of your control about this stressor?

2

Can Stress Help You Grow?

Name: _	Date:	
_		

Vocabulary

- **Distress** (n.) a negative, threatening form of stress
- Eustress (n.) a positive, challenging form of stress
- Reframe (v.) to look at a situation from a different point of view

Activity 1

Instructions: Work with a partner to sort these reactions into the two types of stress. Put a check mark next to the form of stress that best matches each reaction.

Reaction	Form o	f Stress
Improves focus	Distress	Eustress
Positively motivating	Distress	Eustress
Causes concern	Distress	Eustress
Feels exciting	Distress	Eustress
Decreases performance	Distress	Eustress





Activity 2

Instructions: Work with a partner to reframe these stressful situations.

Situation	What are some helpful thoughts you can have in this situation?	How can you reframe this situation into a challenge or an opportunity for growth?
Scenario 1: You have to walk across the stage at graduation in front of the entire school. You feel terrified.		
Scenario 2: Your aunt is sick and has asked you to babysit your three younger cousins for a few hours. They are very active and don't always listen. You feel overwhelmed.		
Scenario 3: You've just been told that your family is moving, and you'll have to go to a new school. You feel upset.		

Wrap-Up

Describe a stressful situation in your own life, or in a character's life from a movie, book, or TV series, that you could reframe into a challenge or an opportunity for growth.

the	at you could reframe into a challenge or an opportunity for growth.
1.	What's the situation?
2.	How could it be reframed into a challenge or an opportunity for growth instead?



Strategies for Managing Stress

Name:	Date:	
Varm-Up What are some things you're doing now to handle stress in your life? List your responses in the "Strategies" column of the chart below. Vrap-Up		
 Instructions Add a check mark next to the stra Write a brief note about when and 	tegies you want to practice and use d where you could use them	
My Stres	ss Management Strategies	
Strategies	When and where I could use it	
Slow Breathing		
Reframing the Situation		
Positive Self-Talk		
Progressive Muscle Relaxation		
Other:		
Other:		

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Student Handout GRADE 8 | Unit 3 | Lesson 18

Name:	Date:
Warm-Up	
What are some signs that someone is ha	ving difficulty managing their stress?
Activity	
Unhelpful Strategy: What might happer	n next
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Helpful Strategy: What might happen n	ext
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	



Wrap-Up

1.	Name someone you've reached out to for support in the past. Why did you pick this person and how did they help you?
2.	Name two different people you can go to for help if you're struggling with stress. Describe how you'll contact these people, so you have a plan.

Performance Task: My Stress-Management Plan

Nc	ame:	Date:	
	Vocabulary		
	Distress (n.) a negative, threatening form of stress		
	Eustress (n.) a positive, challenging form of stress		
W	arm-Up		
	1. What are four things causing you stress right now? List one for each cate	egory below.	
	School:		
	Home:		
	Social Life:		
	World:		
	2. Which of these is your biggest stress? Put a check mark next it.		
Activity			
	Instructions: Answer the following questions to create your stress-manager the handouts from Lessons 14-18 to help you complete your plan.	ment plan. You can use	
	1. My biggest stress right now (copy the answer marked in the Warm-Up a	bove):	
	2. What are the physical, mental, and emotional signs that you're experier	ncing stress?	
	Physical:		
	Mental:		
	Emotional:		



Activity (cont.)

3.	How can you turn this distress into eustress? Describe how you can reframe your situation. How can you grow from it?
4.	What stress-management strategies will be most helpful to you?
5.	Name two people you can go to for support. How will you contact them?