



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Game: Monkey See, Monkey Do

*An extension of "Fake news about immigrants is causing them harm"*

The *What's Up* article "Fake news about immigrants is causing them harm" tells us about the harm that can be caused when people spread fake news (see page 9, *What's Up* October 2024).

When someone plants lies, there are people who spread them without thinking of consequences for innocent people. They act as if they are playing the old game "Monkey See, Monkey Do". Try playing this game in class. Then, reflect on the ways in which the game resembles the spreading of fake news.

### PART A: PLAY THE GAME

1. For every round, there is one **Guesser** and one **Monkey Leader**. The Guesser's challenge is to find out who the Monkey Leader is. The rest of the students are the **Followers** who work together to keep the Monkey Leader's identity a secret.
2. For the first round, choose the Guesser. The Guesser then steps out of the room until invited back.
3. Form a large circle and select one student to be the first Monkey Leader. Do this quietly so that the Guesser will not be able to overhear you. Then, invite the Guesser back into the room. The Guesser returns and stands in the middle of the circle.
4. The Monkey Leader starts doing something that the Followers immediately imitate. The Monkey Leader changes the action at times when the Guesser is not looking that way. The Followers keep doing exactly what the Monkey Leader does.
5. The Guesser tries to figure out who the Monkey Leader is. When the Guesser guesses correctly, the Monkey Leader becomes the Guesser for the next round of the game. Play ten rounds in all. Have fun!

### PART B: APPLY THE METAPHOR

Use this "Monkey See, Monkey Do" game as a metaphor for the spreading of fake news. Have a whole-class discussion about it with the help of these prompts.

- In what ways is the Monkey Leader like someone who starts fake news? How do the Followers resemble those who spread fake news in real life?
- In the game, what makes it difficult for the Guesser to identify the Monkey Leader? Who is like the Guesser in real life? When fake news is spotted, how can the Guesser do good?
- In the game, what would happen if a Follower refused to play along? In real life, what action would resemble a Follower not playing along with the Monkey Leader?
- When it comes to fake news and other lies, which of these roles would you like to play: Monkey Leader, Follower, or Guesser? And why?