

Name: _____

DATING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Dating comes with both rights and responsibilities. As you read the lists below, consider whether you are fulfilling your responsibilities and respecting your own rights and the rights of your dating partner.

I have the right to:

- always be treated with respect
- expect others to respect my own body, thoughts, opinions and property
- choose and keep my own friends
- change my mind at any time
- not be abused physically, emotionally or sexually
- leave a relationship that is not healthy for me
- say no to any requests that make me uncomfortable
- be treated as an equal
- disagree with others' opinions
- live without fear of my dating partner's anger
- be heard
- have my own feelings and be able to express them
- have friends, activities and space aside from my partner

I have the responsibility to:

- not threaten to harm myself or anyone else
- encourage my dating partner to pursue his/her own dreams
- support my dating partner emotionally
- communicate honestly, not manipulate
- know my values
- not do anything that makes me feel bad about myself
- not humiliate or demean my dating partner
- refuse to abuse anyone else physically, emotionally or sexually
- take care of myself
- allow my dating partner to maintain his/her individuality
- respect myself and my dating partner
- be honest with my dating partner and expect honesty in return

Sources: *Office of the Attorney General, Washington State* < www.aig.wa.gov/violence >
Domestic Violence Advocacy Program of Family Resources, Inc. < www.acadv.org/dating.html >