



# ONE TEAM

GRADE 6-7

RESPECT  
ACTIVITIES

✓  
A SAFE PLACE  
TO BE



# TEACHER OVERVIEW



## FEATURED #ONETEAM BLOGS

### JOHN FENNEL

(<https://olympic.ca/one-team/oneteam-with-john-fennell/>)

John competed in the luge at the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games. While the excitement of competing against the best in the world kept him focused, there was always a nagging fear that he would not be accepted if others knew about his sexuality.

### ERIC MITCHELL

Eric's drive for ski jumping excellence kept him focused on training and competing. But as he set his eyes on preparing for the next Olympic Games, a growing rift began to build inside him about the truth of who he was ate away at him. He struggled to find a safe place to address his internal turmoil.

### ERIC RADFORD

(<https://olympic.ca/one-team/oneteam-ambassadors-dylan-mosco-vitch-and-erid-radford/>)

Eric and Dylan were rivals on the figure skating rink, but best friends off the ice. Their friendship was based on a mutual respect and an acceptance for each other's differences. The safety of this relationship allowed Eric to be himself and to become more open about being gay.

## THEMES

- Respect for those who are different than ourselves
- Personal responsibility for creating a safe space that embraces individual differences

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will consider ways to create a safe environment
- Students will reflect on the virtue of respect for others

# GRADE 6-7

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

We are all different in one way or another. Our personalities, likes, dislikes, appearance, backgrounds, race, religion, sexual orientation, beliefs and many other things make us unique. For all of these differences to co-exist in peace, we need to develop an appreciation for our own uniqueness and a respect for the uniqueness of others. We each play a part in creating safer spaces where we can be ourselves and not have to hide our true selves. As you read through the blogs, think about whether the athletes had a safe place to be themselves. Ask yourself how you react to those around you who are different. Are you able to respect them even though they are different than you?

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- Maybe you feel that your differences would not be accepted in your class, on your team, or with your friends. You might need the same courage as these athletes speak of to be yourself and to be authentic. Being like everyone else means not being the authentic you. Maybe you need the courage to be a bit different.
- Perhaps you have a friend, teammate, or classmate that is different than you. You play a critical role in creating a safe space where everyone can be themselves without fear of being bullied, teased, or excluded.

## TALK ABOUT IT!

As a class, discuss the meaning of “respect” as it relates to individual differences. What makes you feel respected? Are there times when you don’t feel respected for your differences? What constitutes a respectful or safe place? Did the athletes in the blogs find a safe place and what are they doing now to create a safe place for others?

## WRITE ABOUT IT!

In your journal, write about what it means to create a safe space. What do you need to do? Why is it to everyone’s best interest? How does a safe space benefit you?

## SHARE ABOUT IT!

In groups, create a safe place charter. On a poster board, list and illustrate 3-5 commitments that your group members will do to create a safe environment in your class for individual differences. Present your charter to the class for discussion.

**“YOU HAVE A CHOICE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT TO SPEAK UP IN SITUATIONS WHERE SOMEONE IS CREATING AN UNSAFE OR EXCLUSIONARY ENVIRONMENT.”**

*Una Louder, Canoe/Kayak Pan Am Games gold medalist*

