

Introductory Questions/Statements

- I'm glad you came in. I'm sorry that this happened to you (or name of the school).
- How did you know _____? How did you learn of _____'s death?
- Yes, what happened is terrible. Things may never seem the same, but it can be OK again.
- Did you know _____ or are you feeling sad about another death?
- I didn't know _____. Can you tell me about _____ and what he/she was like?
- What are some of your favorite memories of _____? What will you miss most?
- What is the most painful part about this right now?

Phrases to avoid:

- I know how you feel.
- He/she led a good, long life....It was God's will.....
- At least he/she didn't suffer. She's in a better place.
- You'll feel better later. He/she wouldn't want you to be sad.

Concluding Questions

- What's the hardest part about this right now? What are your greatest fears/concerns?
- What's going to happen when you get home tonight?
- Who is your support system? Are there people you can call?
- If you wake up at night and feel scared, could you wake your parents?
- Who will be there for you at school tomorrow—who can you talk to?
- Is there anything we could do that we haven't thought of?

***Note: These are questions and statements that may be asked of those students who decide to talk one-on-one with a counselor in the Safe Room.