WHEN SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS
For students (14 yrs+)
After a terrible event, you may have different kinds of ideas or feelings. There is no right or wrong way to feel. Being around family & friends, you may feel happy or safe. Other times, you might feel sad, scared, or angry.

How to cope when terrible things happen to you

A crisis can affect how you feel, how you think, and how you act.

You may feel:

- Confused
- Worried
- Shocked
- Sad
- Scared
- Angry
- Guilty
- Numb

You may experience:

- Being tired
- Headaches or stomach aches
- Fast heart beat
- Feeling jumpy
- Having problems sleeping or nightmares
You may think:

- That what happened was your fault
- About bad images repeatedly
- That bad things will happen again

You may:

- Want to be alone
- Get into more fights
- Have problems concentrating on studies
- Not want to talk about or think about what happened
- Not enjoy much
- Not want to be around things that remind you of what happened

What does NOT Help:

- Staying away from games/play
- Fighting
- Avoiding thinking about what happened
- Staying away from family and friends
- Avoiding asking for help when you need it
- Smoking or taking drugs
- Taking risks such as climbing too high or being careless crossing the street

What Helps:

- Talking to family and friends
- Having fun with family and friends
- Eating well, getting enough sleep, and exercising
- Getting back to a regular routine
- Playing outside
- Watching TV or listening to music
- Giving your self extra time to do homework
- Praying
- Accepting that you may need extra help and asking for it

Most of the problems will go away but if you feel that you are not getting better or are unable to study or sleep well, please talk to an adult.
This brochure has been prepared by senior mental health professionals and is free for printing and distributing anywhere in the country.

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