

VIOLENCE: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION

Large Group Activity (5 Minutes)

Make a chart on the board with two columns: “Violent Characters in TV and Movies” and “Non-Violent Characters in TV and Movies.” Have students call out names to be placed in each column. After both columns have at least 5 characters written in them, ask “Which violent characters do you (or don’t you) respect and why?”

SHOW THE VIDEO (16 Minutes)

Small Group Questions (10 Minutes - Divide class in half and have students form two lines, “A” & “B”, facing each other)

Ask any of the questions listed below, one at a time. Have students interact with each other according to these guidelines:

- For each question, line A will respond first. Line B will listen.
- When the partner in line A has responded, the partner in line B will restate A’s response, and then respond to the question.
- When the partner in line B is done, the partner in line A will restate B’s response.

Ask the students for any interesting comments heard by either line. Students may only comment on what they heard from their partner. When some discussion has taken place, ask another question. Continue asking questions until time has run out.

Questions:

1. Why are people violent? State at least 3 reasons.
2. Is violence part of a person genetically, or is it learned?
3. What should be done with people who are repeat offenders of violent crimes?
4. Are sports programs like boxing good to help people with violent tendencies?
5. How does the media influence violence in our society?

Group Activity (5 Minutes)

In between each question presented to the students, take no more than 2 minutes to open up discussion about any question just addressed. If students are very eager to respond to a particular question, entertain as many comments as possible in the time limit, and don’t worry about not getting to other comments.

WRAP-UP: VIOLENCE

VIOLENCE DOESN'T SOLVE PROBLEMS, IT JUST CREATES MORE VIOLENCE.

- Venting anger in violent ways just causes retaliation or punishment from society.
- Living in a violent world only makes you a regular victim of violence, and increases your chances of a short life.

YOU MAY LIVE WITH VIOLENCE AROUND YOU, BUT YOU CAN CHOOSE TO NOT BE VIOLENT.

- If there is violence in your home and you fear for your safety, you need to talk to someone who can get you out of that situation.
- If you are in a gang or hang out with violent friends, you can see where that leads: to the cemetery. Make a decision to move out of that group of friends.
- Talk to a counselor about how you can safely get out of that situation and find a different group of friends. You might even have to change schools, but the important thing is to **MAKE THE CHANGE**.

LEARN TO DEAL WITH ANGER IN NON-VIOLENT WAYS.

- Take out your frustrations with physical exercise, like a sports team or working out, or get involved in a hobby--even writing about your frustrations.
- Talk to a counselor that can help you find ways to deal with stress and anger that causes violence.
- Realize that family and school can cause frustration which can lead to violence. Find a teacher, a youth leader, or an older and wiser friend who you can talk to about your problems.

HOMework: VIOLENCE

HOMework Project: Violence On Television

STEP ONE: With a partner, tape two violent TV shows or rent two violent movies-- one produced before 1970 and one produced within the last 5 years. Make one chart per show or movie that will enable you to record individual acts of violence you observe for each. Down the left side of the paper, list these categories, leaving space between each: Hitting/Assault, Assault With A Weapon, Sexual Assault, and Killing. Mark each time one of the actions occurs and briefly describe the act.

STEP TWO: Go to the public library and ask the reference librarian to help you find "Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports" by the FBI Statistics for the years in which both of your shows were produced. Find the rate (in percent of population) at which the following types of crimes were committed in those years: Murder, Sexual Assault & Rape, Assault, Assault With A Weapon, and Spousal Abuse/Child Abuse. Write a 2 page paper comparing the amount of violence in your movies and the violence in the years they were produced. How are they similar or different, and how has violence changed over the years in both your TV shows/movies and real life? Also include these points:

1. If violence was removed from TV and movies, would people be more or less violent, and why?
2. Discuss 5 standards you think the government (the FCC) should require for violence on TV or in movies. Make sure you explain your reason for wanting each standard, or why none are needed.
3. What is your opinion about the relationship between media portrayal of violence and the increase of violence in America?

HOMework: Understanding Violence

Find someone you know who's in a gang or who vents their anger violently, or make an appointment with a counselor, campus resource officer, or vice principal. Ask them the following (and add your own):

1. What kind of home life does a violent person typically come from (abusive, anger in the home, bad economic conditions, etc?)
2. How does a violent person deal with stress and anger?
3. Are there any programs at our school designed to decrease violence?
4. How can a violent student's behavior be changed?

Using the answers from the questions, write two paragraphs describing the profile of a violent person. Then, write a page-long proposal for steps that your school could take to decrease violence. If needed, talk to a counselor or administrator that can help you.