Alternatives to Media Violence

Intended Audience: High School Students

Size of Audience: 30-40

Objectives:

- To look at the violence that is portrayed in the media.
- To look at the individual school data on violence for your particular school. (This varies from school to school, but can be obtained through various reports-even a local police report will provide the number of times that police have been to your school. The Search Institute or other agencies that can be employed to research your students will provide data on violent tendencies of your students.)
- To provide information on Brain Research concerning young adolescents.

Overview:

- Using the video Virus of Violence the instructor will provide a picture of the correlation between repetitions of a simulation or an act that will clearly define the ability to make that action real or to change the behavior. (Here it is good to use a REAL example either known or personal to solicit empathy/understanding from the audience.)
- Present information about the local school and the acts of violence that are present. The presenter will link the violent activity to the research from the Virus of Violence video with evidence of local school violence.
- Provide a short questionnaire. (Attached at the bottom)
- Solicit answers to these questions and give statistics from Dr. Grossman's presentation on the statistical data.

Needed Materials/Resources:

- Virus of Violence DVD (44 minutes)
- Statistics from your school data or information about violent acts in your school.

Activities:

1. Present local data.
2. Personalize the information.
3. Conduct the survey.
4. Seek some results of the survey- just a few are needed to get across the point.

Assessment: Participation of the survey as well as class participation.

Follow Up/ Next Steps/ Actions:

- Inform everyone you know with whom you feel comfortable sharing this information.
- Empower yourself and other to tell teens that playing and viewing violent videos and other forms of media which are permeated with violence is not O.K.
- Discuss the key questions:
    a. Are video games violent?
    b. What switches off the safeguard?
    c. What broke down the resistance to killing these kids?

Survey

1. How many of your play video games?

2. What is the amount of time spent playing those games?

3. How many of those games are violent?

4. Do you watch violent movies?

5. What was the last movie you saw?