Let's Stop The Violence

Intended Audience: Sixth to Eighth Grade Students

Prerequisite: Teacher must have viewed Virus of Violence DVD.

Objectives: To become aware of preventative action steps we need to take to stop violence in the classroom, and also in the community.

Overview: The lesson will be to initiate a discussion with the children regarding ways to prevent violence before it starts, and how to successfully resolve conflict in their individual lives. In addition, we will also challenge them to change their daily behavior concerning the violence and violent media with reward (extra credit) through accountability.

Needed Materials/Resources:

1. Ink Pen (blue or black)
2. 1 sheet of plain white paper (8.5" x 11")
3. List of accountability questions (located at the bottom)
4. Accountability Checklist

Video Description/Length: Entire Video (44 minutes)

Activities:

Activity 1-Video
Have the students watch the video, Virus of Violence.

Activity 2- Discussion
Students will answer the six follow-up questions as a tool for discussing and understanding the video.

1. What are your first reactions to the video?
2. Does the violent media we view influence increased levels of violence in teenagers?
3. What is it that broke down the resistance to killing in the children who murdered and who were depicted on the video?
4. Are violent video games, violent movies, and violent television shows teaching children to accept increased violence in our society?
5. Does news coverage of violence and crimes increase "copy-cat" crimes by making celebrities out of those who kill?
6. How can we stop the violence before it happens?

Activity 3 – Conflict Resolution

1. Review the answers to the discussion. After repeating and listing the answers to the discussion on the blackboard, ask the students to use one sheet of their white paper and pen to explain their most recent experience with violence. Also, have them explain how they resolved the issue. Collect all the students papers and share the experiences with the class as a whole. This approach will provide the class with options of the various ways their classmates have prevented violence.

Activity 4 – Violence Prevention Action Steps

After sharing the various experiences and prevention methods with the class, as a group, begin to create a set of prevention steps to eliminate violence in school and at home. These steps will be used to create the Accountability Checklist (Violence Prevention Action Steps) needed to receive extra credit.

Example

Action Steps	**Mon**	**Tues.**	**Wed,**	**Thurs.**	**Fri,**	**Total**
Be respectful to others- Don't tease or taunt						
Walk away from bullies And troublemakers						
Tell the teacher/adult about Potential violence						
Explain Consequences of Violent acts to peers						
No TV before school						
No violent video games						

Activity 5 – Analyzing the Checklist:

Upon receiving the Accountability Checklists from the students, review the results of their Action Steps with the students through open dialogue followed by a brief question and answer period (about 10 min.) At the end of the review, have the students analyze the Action Steps and identify the Action Steps which received the highest totals. This will help the students understand which Action Steps have the greatest impact on preventing violence in their lives. Students should develop a three-paragraph essay on stopping the violence using the violence prevention action steps.

Assessment:

- Participation in Discussion session
- Written responses to 6 Discussion questions
- Written examples of Violence Prevention Action Steps Checklist
- Three-paragraph essay

List of Discussion Questions

1. What was the scariest thing you have ever seen on television, or in the movies?

2. Would you ever watch that movie/show again?

3. What would you do if all of your friends were watching an overly violent movie that you did not want to watch? Would you stay and watch it anyway, or would you tell them that you wanted to watch something else?

4. Have you ever seen anyone perform a violent act copying a movie/television show, etc? (i.e. WWF)

5. What would you do if you saw that someone in your classroom had a gun (or weapon) in their backpack, purse, etc.?

6. Where would you go if someone came into the classroom and started shooting a gun?

7. How can you be a positive influence on your friends and family, with respect to the violence in the media?