

Grade 4

Health Objective 3.03

Predict situations that might lead to violence.

Language Arts 4.07

Compose fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using self-selected and assigned topics and forms.

Materials Needed:

Appendix 1 - Sentence transparency
Poster paper
Markers

Focus:

Tell students that you are going to play the whisper game. You will whisper a statement into the ear of one student and they will in turn whisper what you said to the next student. Once students have whispered around the entire classroom ask the last student to repeat the sentence. The sentence will most likely be quite different from the original. Write the original sentence on the board. Ask students why they think the sentence was so different. Ask the students if they can think of examples of times when miscommunication might lead to violence.

Teacher Input:

Ask students to brainstorm other situations that they can think of that might lead to violence. Explain that often violent behaviors are learned and can be changed. Acknowledge that this is not easy because there is no one cause of violence. Make sure that students include possible warning signals of violence including peer pressure, miscommunication, anger, conflict and retaliation. Explain that while we can not always predict every violent situation sometimes we can recognize that a volatile situation is about to occur.

Practice & Assessment:

Using the list of situations that might lead to violence from the brainstorming activity ask students to draw a picture of a situation that they might think would lead to violence. After completing the picture the students should then write a story, poem, or drama about the picture that they have drawn. This assignment may take several days. After everyone has completed their stories and pictures, allow several students to read their stories to the class. Discuss how they might avoid these possible causes of violence in the future.