

Unit I: Human Behavior

Grade Levels: 6 – 8

Time: One to three class periods (40 – 120 minutes)

Lesson MI–4: The Pyramid of Hate

Objective:

- Students will become aware of the power of the individual to intervene in the escalation of discrimination and hate.

Key Terms:

See Pyramid of Hate glossary.

Materials:

- Pyramid of Hate www.sdb.k12.wi.us/mcneel/holocaust/pyramid_of_hate.htm
- Glossary

Activities/Procedures:

1. Do now/journal/class discussion:
 - a. List three to five labels that you have seen in your school. In your community. (Examples of labels: jock, geek, hood, brain, klutz, etc.)
 - b. How do others label you?
 - c. How would you label yourself?
 - d. Is your view of yourself the same as how people view you? If not, how do the views differ?
2. Class discussion:
 - a. How do you choose your friends?
 - b. What are some of the things you have in common with your friends?
 - c. Why are you more comfortable with people with whom you have common interests?
 - d. Why do people categorize or label other people?
 - e. Are some of these labels positive?
 - f. Can a positive label be detrimental?
3. Hand out Pyramid of Hate and glossary
 - a. Can generalizations be useful?
 - b. Is there a danger in using the word “all?”
 - c. When do labels turn into stereotypes? When do stereotypes turn into scapegoating? When does scapegoating turn into hatred?
 - d. Does social avoidance lead to discrimination?
 - e. Using the Pyramid of Hate, what are some other things discrimination can lead to?
4. What are some ways individuals can stop the escalation of hatred?

Evidence of understanding:

1. Written expression of idea.
2. Identify some actions that you are willing to take to intervene. If you are not willing to take any action or

intervene, explain why you feel this way.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service

1. www.teachingtolerance.org Video - *Shadow of Hate*
2. Movies: The Bielski Brothers (2009 A & E Home Video) *Defiance* (2008 Paramount) *The Power of One* (1999 Warner Home Video)
3. Books: The Bielski Brothers – *Peter Duffy The Power of One* (Young Readers Edition) Bryce Courtenay
4. Find a current event that exemplifies discriminatory behavior. Describe the event and apply terms and concepts from the Pyramid of Hate to aspects of the event.
5. Student handout from The Pyramid of Hate Exercise, page 6 “Have you ever...?” (http://www.college.usc.edu/vhi/education/pyramid/POH_Final.pdf)

Pyramid of Hate Glossary

1. assault: to attack someone physically or emotionally
2. bias: favoring one person or side over another
3. civil: matters concerning private rights, not offenses against the state, not criminal
4. criminal: shameful, against the law
5. dehumanization: the act of degrading people
6. desecration: an act of disrespect or wrongdoing towards anything considered sacred
7. discrimination: unfair treatment of a person or group on the basis of prejudice
8. genocide: the systematic killing of a racial or cultural group
9. harassment: the act of tormenting by continued persistent attacks and criticism
10. hate: the emotion of intense dislike
11. prejudice: a judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known; to make a judgment about an individual or group of individuals on the basis of their social, physical, or cultural characteristics
12. ridicule: language or behavior intended to mock or humiliate
13. rumor: gossip, usually a mixture of truth and untruth, passed around by word of mouth; a piece of information of questionable accuracy
14. scapegoat: someone who is punished for the errors of others
15. social avoidance: choosing to stay away from someone or some group based upon prejudice
16. social exclusion: a process of progressive social breakdown, detaching groups and individuals from social relations and institutions preventing them from full participation in the normal activities of the society in which they live
17. stereotype: a popular belief about a type of person or group of people which does not consider individual differences and may be true or antagonism
18. terrorism: the deliberate use of violence (or the threat of violence) against civilians in order to reach goals that are political, religious or ideological in nature; this is done through bullying or cruelty or instilling fear (no specific agreed upon definition and many different explanations have been put forward)
19. vandalism: willful and malicious destruction of the property of others
20. violence: an action intended to cause destruction, pain, or suffering