

LESSON M-UI-L4

The Pyramid of Hate

Unit I: Human Behavior

Grade Levels: 6-8

Time: 40-120 Minutes



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Objective

Become aware of the power of the individual to intervene in the escalation of discrimination and hate.

Key Terms

See the Pyramid of Hate Key Terms

Lesson Materials

Copies of the Pyramid of Hate (one for each student; resource can be found at:

http://www.sdb.k12.wi.us/mcneel/holocaust/pyramid_of_hate.htm)

Lesson Plan

- Discuss the following questions as a class and/or have students write about the questions in their journals:
 - List three to five labels that you have seen in your school or in your community. (Examples of labels: jock, geek, hood, brain, klutz, etc.)
 - How do others label you?
 - How would you label yourself?
 - Is your view of yourself the same as how people view you? If not, how do the views differ?
- Lead a class discussion using the following questions:
 - How do you choose your friends?
 - What are some of the things you have in common with your friends?
 - Why are you more comfortable with people with whom you have common interests?
 - Why do people categorize or label other people?
 - Are some of these labels positive?
 - Can a positive label be detrimental?
- Hand out the Pyramid of Hate and the Pyramid of Hate Glossary. Discuss the following questions:
 - Can generalizations be useful?
 - Is there a danger in using the word “all?”
 - When do labels turn into stereotypes? When do stereotypes turn into scapegoating? When does scapegoating turn into hatred?
 - Does social avoidance lead to discrimination?
 - Using the Pyramid of Hate, what are some other things discrimination can lead to?
- Ask the student: “What are some ways individuals can stop the escalation of hatred?”

Evidence of Understanding

- Check the students' written expressions of their ideas.
- Have students respond to the following prompt: 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.

Additional Activities and Resources

- Documentary film: *Shadow of Hate* (found in the Netflix library or at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6537841104452251371>)
- Movie: *The Bielski Brothers* (A & E Home Video, 2009)
- Movie: *Defiance* (Paramount, 2008)
- Movie: *The Power of One* (Warner Home Video, 1999)
- Book: *The Bielski Brothers* by Peter Duffy
- Book: *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay (Young Readers Edition)
- 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.

Taking Action and Giving Service

- Use the student handout “Have You Ever . . .?” on page 21 of The Pyramid of Hate Exercise (http://www.adl.org/education/courtvtv/pyramid_of_hate.pdf)

Pyramid of Hate Key Terms

- assault
- bias
- civil
- criminal
- dehumanization
- desecration
- discrimination
- genocide
- harassment
- prejudice
- ridicule
- rumor
- scapegoat
- social avoidance
- social exclusion
- stereotype
- terrorism
- vandalism
- violence