Preventing Teen Dating Violence and Youth Engagement Strategies

New York State Prevention Project
Recommended Curricula and Activity Books

“Days of Respect: Organizing a School-wide Violence Prevention Program”
Step-by-step instructions for putting together an event that brings together students, parents, teachers and community leaders for a common goal: preventing violence and creating an atmosphere of respect in school so that everyone can feel safe. www.paulkivel.com

“Helping Teens Stop Violence: A Practical Guide for Counselors, Educators, and Parents,”

“I Can Make My World a Safer Place: A Kid’s Book about Stopping Violence”
This book, which was written for adults to read with 6-11 year olds, is about the first steps in preventing, healing from and finding alternatives to violence. Topics include what to do about teasing and bullies, fights, gangs and weapons, anger, drugs and suicide, child abuse and domestic violence. www.paulkivel.com

“Making Allies, Making Friends: A Curriculum for Making the Peace in Middle School”
Flexible, multi-track curriculum design has over 30 innovative, creative classroom sessions designed to prepare young people to build a healthy multi-cultural community and prevent violence. They address issues of race, class, gender and sexual identity that middle-schoolers face and can be adapted to the needs of many different school environments. www.paulkivel.com

“Making the Peace: A 15-Session Violence Prevention Curriculum for Young People”
Once again, the Oakland Men’s Project leads the way in our field in creating a thoughtful, sensitive and user-friendly curriculum. Their comprehensive approach helps young people deal with the deeper more sensitive issues around violence in a caring safe and respectful manner.” www.paulkivel.com

“Hardy Girls, Healthy Women,” Although many, if not most, national programs designed to support girls in the past 15 years have focused on self-esteem and other internal, psychological issues, HGHW is one of the few programs that addresses girls' lives in relational and social contexts. We believe that it is not the girls, but rather the culture in which they live that is in need of repair. www.hardygirlshealthywomen.org


“Open Minds to Equality: A Sourcebook of Learning Activities to Affirm Diversity and Promote Equity,” Nancy Schneidewind & Ellen Davidson, Allyn and Bacon, www.abacon.com

“White Ribbon Campaign: Education And Action Kit” Updated in 2005, the perfect tool for the classroom and an excellent guide for teaching youth about violence against women. Now in four versions, Canadian Middle and Secondary and US Middle and Secondary, there is a kit to fit all of your educational needs. www.whiteribbon.ca
“Men Can Stop Rape” Visit this website to see the variety of tools and resources this D.C. based organization provides. There is information regarding the Strength Campaign, the new Campus Strength program, MOST Clubs and other tools for mobilizing young men to prevent violence against women. www.mencanstoprape.org

“Expect Respect” a comprehensive prevention program designed to raise awareness of dating violence, teach skills for healthy relationships, develop youth leadership, and increase safety and respect on school campuses. www.safeplace.org

Recommended Readings

“Power and Possibilities” a publication of the Ms. Foundation and Collaborative Fund for Youth-led Social Change, September 2003. Article available in PDF at www.msfoundation.org


Teen Campaigns

See it and stop it! www.seeitandstopit.org
Look for online toolkit

NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Teen Dating Violence www.opdv.state.ny.us


Teen Action Research Initiative results can be found at: http://www.janedoe.org/About/about_tac_edk_research.htm

“Choose Respect”
CDC’s teen dating violence prevention campaign
“Please Stand Up!” is an interactive CD-ROM for middle and high school students, educators, parents and community members to help eradicate school violence by showing you the best way to handle a variety of dangerous and self-destructive situations.

“Online Toolkit for Working with Men and Boys” This web site is a comprehensive tool kit designed to help you work with men and boys to prevent gender-based violence. It provides readings, case studies, handouts, exercises, and other resources as well as community-building tools.

See more at about prevention and teen dating violence at:

Video's and DVD's

“Killing Us Softly 3” Jean Kilbourne continues her groundbreaking analysis of advertising’s depiction of women in this most recent update of her pioneering Killing Us Softly series. In fascinating detail, Kilbourne decodes an array of print and television advertisements to reveal a pattern of disturbing and destructive gender stereotypes. Her analysis challenges us to consider the relationship between advertising and broader issues of culture, identity, sexism, and gender violence.

“Tough Guise: Violence, Media and the Crisis in Masculinity” with Jackson Katz, is the first educational video geared toward college and high school students to systematically examine the relationship between pop-cultural imagery and the social construction of masculine identities in the U.S. at the dawn of the 21st century.

Jackson Katz is one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists. An educator, author and filmmaker, he is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in gender violence prevention education with men and boys.

This exciting new media literacy tool— utilizing racially diverse subject matter and examples— will enlighten and provoke students (both males and females) to evaluate their own participation in the culture of contemporary masculinity.


Director Byron Hurt, former star college quarterback, longtime hip-hop fan, and gender violence prevention educator, conceived the documentary as a "loving critique" of a number of disturbing trends in the world of rap music. He pays tribute to hip-hop while challenging the rap music industry to take responsibility for glamorizing destructive, deeply conservative stereotypes of manhood.
“Spin the Bottle: Sex, Lies and Alcohol,” offers an indispensable critique of the role that contemporary popular culture plays in glamorizing excessive drinking and high-risk behaviors. Award-winning media critics Jackson Katz and Jean Kilbourne contrast these distorted representations with the often disturbing and dangerous ways that alcohol consumption affects the lives of real young men and women. Illustrating their analysis with numerous examples, Katz and Kilbourne decode the power and influence these seductive media images have in shaping gender identity, which is linked to the use of alcohol. Nowhere is this link more cause for concern than on America's college campuses. www.mediaed.org

“It Takes a Team: Making Sports Safe for LGBT Athletes and Coaches” This educational "kit"—which includes a 15-minute video, a discussion and resource guide, an informational poster, and colorful "Safe Space" stickers—is intended to help coaches/teachers, parents, and school administrators educate students/athletes about the harmful effects of homophobia and asks the question, "How can we make sure that people in athletics are evaluated, not based on their sexual orientation or gender expression, but on their individual character and accomplishments?" The DVD includes the video and digital versions of the educational materials for easy printing. www.mediaed.org

“Game Over: Gender, Race and Violence in Video Games” is the first educational documentary to address the fastest growing segment of the media through engaging questions of gender, race and violence.

Game Over offers a refreshing dialogue about the complex and controversial topic of video game violence, and is designed to encourage high school and college students to think critically about the video games they play. www.mediaed.org