

The Youth Violence Project
2-DAY WORKSHOP

Designed for what audience:

Day 1 - At-risk youth and their parents.

Day 2 - At-risk youth, their parents, and community youth workers.

Facilitated by: The Youth Violence Team from the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Workshop Content

The physical space should be arranged with a podium in the center front and two large screens for viewing the films, one on each side of the podium. The narrative (dramatic) film, *Youth Violence: Inside the Skin*, will be projected on one screen and the documentary film, *The Voices of Youth Violence*, will be projected on the other.

On the first day, themes addressing the causes of youth violence, with emphasis on choice, will be presented through film segments with discussion in breakout groups (see detailed schedule below). For each module, a theme (such as "Followers and Leaders") will be presented by the moderator. Then a segment of the dramatic film that illustrates this theme will be shown. This will allow the audience to have the subjective experience of being in the skin of the young people and parents facing the difficult situations. Following this excerpt, a segment of the documentary film will be shown, providing analysis and commentary by experts as well as concerned parents and actual young people who have experienced that particular scenario. This presentation format allows for both subjective and objective approaches to the material, a technique for maximizing audience engagement on multiple levels.

On the second day, solutions in the form of interventions will be addressed. The first half of the day will be spent identifying specific resources available within the targeted community, and establishing the lines of connection between social agencies, schools, parents and youth.

During the second half of the day, staff will facilitate the plan for a community arts project on the topic of youth violence. This segment of the workshop will take the information learned from the first day and deepen the message through an experiential response. The artistic medium(s) will depend on the interests, skills and resources of each individual community. The art work may be a mural, a film, a play, music, rap, or a combination of these things and more. This "piece" will symbolize the community's desire to end youth violence. The goals of this group project are:

- 1.) for participants to experience team building in an effort to bridge gaps between parents, youth, school and law enforcement officials and social agencies as they attempt to work together on a group project.
- 2.) to allow an opportunity for tangible expression of anger, fear, frustration, boredom and insecurity through the creation of art work.
- 3.) to create a symbolic artifact which will remain visible in the community as a constant reminder that youth violence is real and a part of communities across the country. It also represents the concern of all of those who have participated in the workshop -- the single greatest weapon against youth violence.

During this segment, the Birmingham Youth Violence Project will be used as a model. The community project will be planned during this workshop, with facilitation by the UAB

team. The actual implementation of the project could take place that day or over an extended period of time, as in the model of the Birmingham Youth Violence Project.

Workshop Schedule

DAY 1

Focus for the Day: Themes addressing the causes of youth violence will be presented through film segments (both subjective and objective) with discussion in breakout groups.

9:00 AM - Continental breakfast and registration.

9:30 AM - Introduction of staff, overview of workshop, explanation of Birmingham's Youth Violence Project

10:00 AM - Module 1

- Presentation of Themes by Moderator: Violence begets violence. Anger as a result of lack of control of one's life. Importance of support groups.
- Excerpts from the narrative and documentary films.
- Breakout sessions

11:00 AM - Module 2

- Presentation of Themes by Moderator: Choices. Wanting to be cool: followers and leaders.
- Excerpts from the narrative and documentary films.
- Breakout sessions

Noon - Lunch (provided)

1:00 PM - Module 3

- Presentation of Themes by Moderator: Boredom and Addiction. More control issues: territoriality.
- Excerpts from the narrative and documentary films.
- Breakout sessions

2:00 PM - Module 4

- Presentation of Themes by Moderator: Neglect is more violent than violence. Neglect = anger. Bullies and the new kid in town.
- Excerpts from the narrative and documentary films.
- Breakout sessions

3:00 PM - Snack break (provided)

3:30 PM - Module 5

- Presentation of Themes by the Moderator: Potential escalation of these mental and emotional frames over time. Time lapse episodes addressing being a follower, boredom, seeking approval and family among heroes. The results of various choices.
- Excerpts from the narrative and documentary films.
- Breakout sessions

4:30-5:00 PM - Summary remarks by moderator and preparation for tomorrow.

DAY 2

Focus for the Day: Community building through artistic expression of feelings regarding youth violence.

9:00 AM - Continental breakfast.

9:20 AM - Review of yesterday. Overview of today's workshop.

9:30 AM - Community Arts Project Session

Creation of community arts project symbolizing concern for local youth and desire to end youth violence in the local community. (Local family services providers, juvenile justice people, principals and teachers, and community leaders are invited to participate.)

- Design based on local interests and resources, facilitated by UAB team.
- Plan for implementation

11:30 AM - Review and summary of two-day workshop by moderator. Open forum reflection.

12 Noon - Evaluation.