

Stories of Us *Bullying Prevention*



Promoting Positive Peer Relationships (P3R)

Produced with Students, For Students

"...gives schools the tools they need to provide a quality bullying prevention program."

John Nori, Director of Instructional Leadership Resources,
National Association of Secondary School Principals

"It would be difficult to find a classroom project that better illustrates the range of skills currently termed '21st century literacies,' and considered increasingly essential for academic and real-world achievement." National Council of Teachers of English's "Council Chronicle"

"My students, racially, economically, and experientially diverse, came together in a way that I've not had the pleasure of seeing in my 16 years of teaching. Students who never sat together started eating lunch together, in essence, desegregating our cafeteria."

Shameem Rakha, Teacher, Franklin Middle School, Illinois

"I highly recommend P3R as the best film series that I have seen in addressing the issue of bullying on middle school campuses."

Kristi Morris, Counselor, Goleta Valley Junior High, California

"I think this film will make people aware of how much bullying really goes on. We filmed this just like it was our natural lives and the bullying was included in that."

Brendon, 8th Grade Student

P3R

Stories of Us Bullying Prevention Program

Promoting Positive Peer Relationships (P3R)

The **Stories of Us P3R** program is composed of a unique series of film-based education resources for supporting students, educators and the broader community in addressing the problem of bullying in schools.

Building upon the unprecedented success of the Australian *Stories of Us*, the significantly expanded U.S. program has been developed with three of America's leading specialists on bullying and school violence. The program has the support of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, along with a broad base of leading educators from across the country.

The **P3R** resources center on films developed and produced with students. These uncommonly realistic films were built from the ground up with groups of 8th graders who collaborated in developing the scripts based upon their collective experience. They perform all the young roles in the films. Every word of dialogue is their own, and every detail approved by the students.

The **Stories of Us** films are compelling to young viewers as they authentically reflect their peers' collective experience of bullying – which is why the resources are so effective.

RESOURCES

The **P3R** program is composed of four resources, each built around professional films developed and produced in collaboration with students.

There are two curriculum resources:

- **Classroom Resource**
- **Make-You-Own-Film Resource**

Plus two adult education resources:

- **Professional Development Resource**
- **Community Education Resource**

Each resource is designed to be used either individually, or bundled as a more extensive **P3R** program. These programs include an **Implementation Guide**. The resources can also be used to complement other bullying prevention programs.

TRAINING

The **P3R** resources are designed to be implemented by staff without the need for training, however educators generally appreciate the option more in-depth professional development training. *Stories of Us* provide a number of training packages. Please refer to the **Resources & Training** section of the website for more information.

P3R

CLASSROOM RESOURCE (Curriculum)

This resource is designed to help students and teachers develop effective strategies to enhance awareness and understanding, and reduce bullying behaviors among students.

The Classroom Resource is composed of a DVD and an extensive Teacher's Guide. The DVD includes two separate films, produced in distinctly different school environments, so teachers can choose to work with the one most relevant to their students. Each film presents the story of two "students" (one boy and one girl) as they deal, in their own way, with a progressively worsening case of bullying. The films serve as a catalyst to explore the subtle dynamics in the development of bullying incidents, and help the students develop an understanding of what happens and why.

The Guide outlines multiple Lesson Plans designed with the flexibility to meet a number of needs, and incorporate facilitated discussion, group activities, written work and role play. The Guide provides detailed support information for teachers, and links to further resources for understanding and reducing bullying in schools.

The Classroom Resource was developed to maximize the alignment with the National Standards for the English Language Arts and the National Health Education Standards for Grades 6-8.

MAKE-YOUR-OWN-FILM RESOURCE (Curriculum)

Designed for middle and high school students, this active learning curriculum provides step-by-step instructions for teachers and students in the *Stories of Us* method so they can write, and film selected scenes from, their own short films. The focus is on the investigative process, researching the subject, and building realistic timelines to explore how bullying develops – how it begins, what happens to perpetuate the problem, the role of bystanders, the reality of students' attempts to deal with the problem, and outcomes.

The curriculum combines a range of 21st Century literacy skills and meets English Language Arts and Health Education standards. At the same time, the curriculum promotes social cohesion and helps reduce bullying. The project can be implemented in schools or after-school organizations by either English, Drama and/or Media Arts staff. It is also an excellent Advisory Class curriculum or interdisciplinary project – which could involve staff from English, Drama, Media Arts, Technology, Counseling and Health.

Instruction in basic filmmaking is provided, however students are encouraged to keep this aspect as simple as possible. The resource can also be used for other peer issues. The professional student film is presented in this resource as an example of what can be achieved by students with no previous experience with acting or filmmaking. There is also a national competition for films produced using the *Stories of Us* method.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE

Students are continually developing new forms of bullying, often more subtle and harder to detect – particularly with the growing use of communication technologies. As one 8th grade teacher commented: *“I don’t know I would recognize bullying if I saw it. I don’t know what it looks like anymore.”*

The Professional Development Resource presents a self-contained, staff-run workshop with the flexibility to be adapted to suit the needs of the school. The resource is composed of a DVD and an extensive guide for the staff facilitator, and includes an **Implementation Guide** outlining the application of the multiple resources.

The aim of this resource is to help teachers define and understand what is potentially happening for many of their students, expand their skill-base and provide guidance in creating a safe and supportive environment for students. The workshop is presented as a series of modules which schools can select from to focus the training on issues of greatest concern to staff.

The DVD includes the two middle school films plus 57 minutes of training material featuring three of America’s leading specialists on bullying and school violence – Drs. Dorothy Espelage, Susan Swearer and Shane Jimerson. They provide a detailed introduction to bullying and its various types, bullying statistics and the main obstacles to reducing bullying in schools. They also provide analysis and advice on specific issues such as witnessing bullying, the role of bystanders, bullying beyond the school (including cyber-bullying) and how to promote more positive peer relationships.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION RESOURCE

Parents, family and members of the local community may be the first to witness bullying or its consequences, or be the ones to whom students turn for help. Bullying is not limited to the school. With the emergence of various forms of cyber-bullying (using cell phones and the internet) it is becoming all the more important that parents and the broader community are well informed about the reality of bullying.

The Community Education Resource is intended for schools and community groups wishing to reach beyond the school to inform and engender constructive support in dealing with bullying.

This resource combines the professional student films with expert interviews highlighting what happens and why, and providing guidance with addressing this complex problem. The aim is to help define and understand what is potentially happening for many of young people, and consider how they can help to create a safer and more supportive environment.

The text accompanying the DVD provides instructions for conducting the session, and includes hand-outs for the audience with links to further information and support.

For more information about the **P3R** program including online film previews, Guide and Lesson Plan extracts, pricing and ordering options, visit:

www.storiesofus.com

P3R

Stories of Us

21st Century Skills Bullying Prevention Film Competition



As part of the *Promoting Positive Peer Relationships (P3R)* bullying prevention initiative, Stories of Us (USA) has established a national competition for student films developed and produced using the *Stories of Us* method. The method emphasizes the inquiry process as students research the subject, collect data and build realistic timelines to explore how bullying develops, then translate their findings into short film scripts – and film selected scenes from their story.

Designed for middle and high school students, the *P3R* Make-Your-Own-Film active learning curriculum combines a range of 21st Century literacy skills and meets English Language Arts and Health Education standards. At the same time, the curriculum promotes social cohesion and helps reduce bullying in schools.

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National Council of Teachers of English’s “Council Chronicle”

In addition to its curriculum and other resources, the *P3R* initiative aims to create a web-based, education-friendly hub to engage and empower young people in constructive dialogue about bullying. Student-produced films and scripts submitted for the competition will form the center of this hub.

For more information about the competition and the Make-Your-Own-Film curriculum visit:

www.storiesofus.com/competition

The competition is proudly supported by the following partner organizations:



P3R