

Y2Y TIPS FOR YOUNGER AUDIENCES



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The audience for Y2Y began with you and your fellow Job Corps students. Now that you have organized your Y2Y efforts on center, you have the opportunity to share Y2Y messages with organizations in your community, which may include younger audiences like middle school students. It's always important to match your message to your audience, but it's even more important when talking about a serious issue like violence and aggression. The information below can guide your Y2Y efforts when addressing younger audiences.

USE APPROPRIATE RESOURCES

Graphic images of violence are not appropriate for a younger audience. Instead, consider using the following:

- Community pledge cards
- Y2Y community posters (Poster 1, Poster 2)
- T-shirts
- Wristbands

Remember, Y2Y logos are available in the toolkit online. Use them if you create your own materials for younger audiences.

ADDRESS APPROPRIATE TOPICS

When addressing younger audiences, make sure your messages make sense to them. You can do this by meeting with their teacher or other appropriate adult beforehand.

- Ask what kind of violence is appropriate to discuss (teasing, bullying, fighting, something more serious?).
- Always have a certified professional present if you plan on discussing sexual violence with younger audiences (i.e., a trained counselor or nurse).

ENCOURAGE YOUNGER AUDIENCES TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

Y2Y is centered on sharing stories. Young people like stories, so use them as a learning tool to highlight the importance of anti-violence.

Read or act out scenarios, such as:

- What to do if your friend shows you a real gun or talks about having access to one.
- How to say no drugs at a party.
- How to deal with bullies.
- What to do if you witness a crime—even a minor one.

Work with students in small groups to discuss best steps. Help kids record all of the “best practices” they heard for solving these problems and display them somewhere in school/classroom.

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EMPOWER YOUNGER AUDIENCES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE.

We all know that young people look up to their older peers. Be a good role model to younger people early on so they are more likely to develop peaceful habits as they get older.

- Identify someone in your community whom young people admire to speak with them about violence and how to promote safety in their community (e.g., elected government officials, police department, fire department, business leaders, nonprofit organizations, etc.).
- Plan interactive activities with younger audiences to share Y2Y's message of nonviolence and peace, and to show them that you and your friends oppose violence.

POSSIBLE TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNGER AUDIENCES.*

PEER INTERVENTION: There are many ways to deal with problems. Explain to students that the steps below can help deal with problems that involve others.

- **STOP!** Give yourself time to cool off and think clearly.
- **Understand how you both feel and what you both need.**
- **Take turns talking and listening to each other.**
- **Don't hurt the person you're upset with.** You can hurt someone with words and with actions.
- **Work together to brainstorm possible solutions.**

BULLYING: Open up a discussion with students by asking questions about bullies. Ask the audience to help answer student questions when they arise.

- **HOW TO DEAL WITH A BULLY:** There are many ways to deal with a bully. See below for some examples. Discuss when each example works best.
 - Surround yourself with friends. This is called "safety in numbers."
 - Do not fight back. It can make things worse.
 - Get help from an adult.
 - If you need to, walk or run away.
- **HOW TO STOP BULLYING FROM HAPPENING:** There are many ways to prevent others from getting bullied, too. Discuss the examples below. What works best in what scenario?
 - Tell an adult when you see another student being mean or if you hear someone planning to harm others.
 - Walk away from fights.
 - Speak out when you see someone who needs help.
 - Show compassion for the victim.

DIVERSITY AND GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS: We are all unique and different.

- **WE ARE DIVERSE BEYOND OUR APPEARANCE.** There is more to diversity than eye color, skin color or hair color. These are just things that we see before we get to know somebody. More importantly, we have a lot of things in common.



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- **NO ONE PERSON OR GROUP OF PERSONS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANOTHER.** We are ALL equal. We should RESPECT, VALUE, and APPRECIATE each other for the different things we are able to teach, do, and share.
 - Never make fun of people who are different from you in any way. Accept that everyone is special in his or her own way—both mentally and physically.
 - Don't be afraid to try new foods or participate in cultural activities.
 - Never stereotype a whole group of people. Treat each person as an individual.

* Source cited: *National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)*



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