

OBJECTIVES

To define conflict and violence.
 To broaden students' perceptions of violence.
 To perceive conflict as an opportunity rather than an obstacle.

MATERIALS

Newsprint, marker

INTRODUCTION

Is there anyone here who has not been involved in a conflict? Think back to you last conflict and try to remember the feelings that were associated with it. (Share) Did that conflict end in violence? Is conflict the same as violence? Let's find out.

ACTIVITIES

- 1 Have students take the Conflict True/False test. (Page 4)
 Discuss answers to True/False quiz. (Page 6)
- 2 In small groups, have students brainstorm words and feelings they associate with Conflict. Have groups web responses and classify:

Feelings

- anger
- frustration
- jealousy
- hate

CONFLICT**Resolution**

- violence
- avoid
- talk it out
- compromise

Causes

- expectations
- possessions
- resources
- territory
- values
- ideas
- religion

- 3 Have students repeat the same process with Violence. (Page 6)

Physical

- beating
- killing

Psychological

- isolation
- ignoring
- ostracizing
- shunning
- solitary confinement

VIOLENCE**Institutional**

- prejudice
- racism
- political, religious oppression

Verbal

- sarcasm
- put-downs
- humiliation
- harassment

Discuss

- *How are conflict and violence similar? Different?*
- *How is non-physical violence similar to physical violence? Different?*
- *What is institutional violence? (Systemic practices or policies of an institution that affect people adversely because of race, gender, lifestyle choice, political viewpoint, religion, or economic status)*
- *How does institutional violence affect the person involved? Society?*

4 READ “Obstacle or Opportunity” (Page 5)**Discuss**

- *How does your perception of conflict compare to that of the Chinese?*
- *What are the advantages of looking at conflict as an opportunity? Disadvantages?*

5 EXPRESS YOURSELF

Through art, music, drama or writing, interpret:

- *“Conflict is the gadfly of thought. It stirs us to observation and memory. It instigates us to invention. It shocks us out of sheep-like passivity.”* -John Dewey, educator.
- *Draw your own symbol that represents conflict as an opportunity. Share and explain.*

ACTIVITIES

It is important to understand the distinction between conflict and violence. Conflict is a clash between two or more parties. Violence is one way to respond to a conflict. The goal of conflict resolution is to learn nonviolent responses. When we perceive conflict as an opportunity, it opens up a rainbow of possibilities to find creative win/win solutions.