

Lesson 3.3

Organizations Working for Peace



Rationale

Peacebuilding organizations can be as large as national governments or as small as a single person. In this lesson, students will explore the history, growth, and activities of a variety of organizations dedicated to promoting peacebuilding, as well as consider the potential for all types of organizations to play a positive role in peacebuilding.

Objectives

1. To identify organizations working to build peace.
2. To learn how students can contribute to the mission of some organizations.

Standards

- ◆ Individual Development and Identity
- ◆ Individuals, Groups and Institutions

Time: 1.5 class periods (70 minutes—45 minutes for preparation the first day and 25 minutes for presentations and discussion on the second day)

Materials

- Note-Taking Form for Researching a Peacebuilding Organization* Worksheet
- Creating a Commercial* Handout
- Miscellaneous art supplies that students might need for their commercials
- Flip Video Camera (optional)
- TV (optional, only necessary if you film the commercials)

Preparation

If your students do not have access to the Internet to conduct research in class, you will have to select organizations for groups to research and print information about each organization prior to class.



45 minutes

Part 1

Procedures

Extension Activity 1

Have students turn their commercial into a print advertisement or poster.

Extension Activity 2

Have students research an individual who works for an organization dedicated to peacebuilding. What is his/her job description? What is his/her academic and professional background? Interview this person by phone or email to learn more about what they do and why they chose to do it.

I. Essential Questions:

1. How do organizations work as peacebuilders?
2. Why are organizations important in helping individuals promote peace?

II. Motivation (5 minutes)

1. Tell students that they are going to look beyond individual peacebuilders and focus on organizations that work for peacebuilding. Ask:
 - ◆ What organizations do you know of that build peace?
2. Write student responses on the board. If they have difficulty generating a list, you can use some of the organizations from the list of Nobel Peace Prize winners. An article listing winners (both people and organizations) appears at this link: http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/articles/lundestad-review/. Also, the United States Institute of Peace has a comprehensive list of international organizations at this link: <http://www.usip.org/publications/international-organizations>.
3. Ask students what kind of organizations they have identified: local, national, international, governmental, nonprofit? What are some of the differences between these kinds of organizations? Note that governments, themselves, can work for peace. The U.S. is often a third party engaged in building peace. Parties in conflict often look to trusted outside governments to help end conflicts in their region.

III. Teacher Directed (10 minutes)

1. Tell students that when groups work together to prevent or manage conflicts, they can sometimes reach wider audiences and get more people engaged because they have the structures in place to do so.
2. Share that in groups of three, students will research a national or an international organization that works for international peace, e.g. USIP, U.N., or Peace Links, an international women's peace education group founded in 1981, which was a major force in ending the Nuclear Arms race, and write a commercial about that organization which they will perform in front of the class. If you have a video camera, you may choose to film the performances.
3. Distribute the *Note-Taking Form for Researching a Peacebuilding Organization* Worksheet and the *Creating a Commercial* Handout. Review both with students.
4. Divide students into groups of three. Assign each student an international organization that works for peace or allow them to select their own from a list you have generated, from the list they generated at the beginning of class, or from their own research. If students do not have access to the Internet in class for researching their organization, prior to class you will need to determine the organizations to be researched and print information from each organization's website for students to review. Again, the United States Institute of Peace has a comprehensive list of international organizations at the following link: <http://www.usip.org/publications/international-organizations> and the Nobel Prize website has information about organizations that have won the peace prize.

IV. Guided/Independent Practice (30 minutes)

Circulate as students are researching, writing, and practicing their commercials.

Part 2

Procedures

I. Independent Practice (15 minutes)

Have students present their commercials.

II. Discussion (10 minutes)

Lead a class discussion using some or all of the following questions:

- ◆ What similarities and differences did you notice in the organizations represented in the commercials?
- ◆ Which organization would you most likely support? Why? How would you want to support it?
- ◆ Why is it important that we work together in organized groups to build peace?

Assessment:

Note-taking forms and commercials (You can use the guidelines on the *Creating a Commercial* Handout to evaluate the commercials.)



25 minutes

Extension Activity 3

Have students think about a current conflict or social issue, whether locally, nationally, or internationally. Tell them to imagine that they are going to start their own non-profit organization. What is the organization called? What is its mission? Who will be involved? What activities will they do? Develop a logo for the organization. This could be done at home individually, or in groups in class.

Extension Activity 4

Have students research the role of the United States in peacebuilding, both historically and in recent decades. You can have them explore the role of the United States in negotiating peace in international conflicts (Northern Ireland, Israeli-Palestinian Territories, Balkans, etc.) What influence does the U.S. have on peace throughout the world? U.S. historical examples might include: President Theodore Roosevelt's mediation between Russia and Japan that led to the Portsmouth Treaty in 1905 (for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize), the vision of President Woodrow Wilson for a League of Nations and then the post-World War II development of international institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization as well as international treaties on human rights, war crimes, and nuclear non-proliferation. American peacebuilding efforts include the Marshall Plan, which was a massive effort to rebuild a devastated Europe after World War II. Less than fifteen years later, another peacebuilding effort was announced in the U.S.: the establishment of the Peace Corps, an organization that recruits volunteers who would dedicate themselves to the progress and peace of developing countries by teaching and transferring skills in needy communities around the world. And in 1984, Congress created the United States Institute of Peace.

Lesson 3.3 WORKSHEET: NOTE-TAKING FORM FOR RESEARCHING A PEACEBUILDING ORGANIZATION

Directions: Research your organization and answer the questions below. When you are finished with the questions, you can begin to create and rehearse your commercial.

What is the name of the organization? _____

Why does the organization exist? What is its mission?

How does the organization carry out its mission? What does it do?

What is the organization's target audience?

What is the history of the organization? How did it get started?

Where is the organization located and where does it do its work?

How can people get involved to support the organization (donate, volunteer, etc.)?

Handout 3.3 HANDOUT: CREATING A COMMERCIAL ABOUT A PEACEBUILDING ORGANIZATION

Directions Use the following steps to create your commercial about a peace organization.

Step One Select your peace organization. Write its name here.

Name: _____

Step Two Research your organization using the internet. Take notes on the *Note-Taking Form about Peacebuilding Organizations*. Be sure to cover all topics listed on the form.

Step Three From your notes create a 30 second commercial about the organization, using the guidelines below. You can write the commercial in script form or you can make a story board to illustrate the commercial. To make a story board, draw a series of squares on a piece of paper and in each square show the action that is taking place in the commercial. When you look at the squares in order, you see the story that the commercial is telling.

Guidelines

- ◆ The commercial should be 30 seconds or shorter.
- ◆ The commercial should include accurate information that covers ALL of the note-taking topics.
- ◆ The commercial should include all three members of the team.
- ◆ The commercial should be creative in some way (e.g., includes a jingle, is humorous, has props, etc.)
- ◆ The commercial should engage the viewer. At the end of the commercial, the viewer should want to learn more about the organization and the work it does.

Step Four Once the commercial is written, REHEARSE with the members of the team. Make any props necessary.

Step Five Perform your commercial!