

***It Can't Happen Here:
Recognition & Prevention of
Extreme School Violence***

Subject: Health & Guidance: Violence Prevention

Grade level: High School, Adult

Length: 32:00

Summary

Today's teens, it seems, are more prone than ever before to act out violently against perceived or real threats, harassment, academic stress, and peer pressure.

The danger to schools and surrounding communities presented by these troubled teens is real and often ends in tragedy.

This program takes an in-depth look at the issues facing students today, and presents ways for students, teachers, and counselors to recognize the warning signs of a potentially harmful student.

Viewers will see that preventing this type of violence takes awareness, trust-building, open communication, understanding, and becoming actively involved in students' lives. The most effective prevention is recognizing the potential for violence in youngsters before they become secretive and reach the edge of violent aggression.

Objectives

- To educate students, parents, teachers, and counselors about the warning signs of troubled teens capable of perpetrating extreme violent acts at school; and
- To teach steps that can be taken to prevent tragedies related to school violence.

Before Viewing Suggestions

Use these questions and activities to prepare viewers for the topic of this program.

- Have the group of parents, teachers, or counselors share their thoughts as to why America is such a violent culture. Formulate with them the major consensus points.
- Ask the group: Do you feel safe in your working or home environment? Why or why not? What can we do about it?
- Do students trust you? Why or why not?
- Are there secrets among your students? Why or why not?
- What have you done to prompt more open communication between yourself and students?
- How do you recognize an alienated student? What have you done to help that student?
- What retaliatory behaviors have you seen in students? How did you intervene?
- Do you think it's possible that an episode of

extreme school violence could happen at your school? Why or why not?

After Viewing Suggestions

Use these discussion topics, activities, and questions to review the program material.

- Have the group of parents, teachers, or counselors work up a model program of interaction and develop methods of recognizing and helping to prevent extreme school violence. If one already exists, have them work on ways to improve the program.
- If possible, invite a teen to interact with your group that has received intervention help with anger or violent acting out problems. Have the teen share with the group his background, his thoughts, and feelings at the time, and how good intervention and help has changed his attitudes and life.
- What triggers teen violence?
- What is "access" in regards to communication between a student and an adult?
- What is a common scenario for a student that experiences alienation?
- What are the primary dangers to a school by a student experiencing alienation?
- What is the motivation behind most retaliatory behaviors?
- What is a student trying to accomplish by retaliation?

- What are the best consequences for learning?
- How do you teach consequences?
- What are the thought processes of a person who doesn't suffer consequences?
- How can one best teach healthy anger in a controlled classroom setting?
- What are the primary warning signs of a student on the edge of violent aggression?
- What can a school do to provide activities and help build positive self-esteem?
- What is the best approach for a school in identifying, preventing, or interacting, in cases of extreme school violence?
- What do we have to take care of to "prevent the big things"? Why?
- What is the first step in the prevention of extreme school violence?
- Who is the key ingredient? Why?

The *It Can't Happen Here* series includes:

Teens & Anger: The Masks of Aggression
We're All the Same
When It's Cool to Talk



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