

Understanding Your Community: The Negatives



the goal

While every community has many positive aspects and resources, every community also has negative aspects and dangerous places. The students need to know where the negative aspects of their community are and how to avoid these areas. They also need to know why these are dangerous areas and the possible consequences for going into them.

the objective



This exercise will help the students identify the areas of their community that they need to avoid and then determine the consequences for not avoiding them.

exercise

- 1 Begin this exercise by spending a few minutes talking about all of the great things this community has to offer. Talk about the fun things and the resources. Talk about theatres and parks and libraries.
- 2 Affirm for the students that they live in a great place.
- 3 Now tell the students that even though this is a great place to live, it also has areas that they should avoid and areas that are dangerous for you.
- 4 Ask the students to think of areas that they should avoid. Tell the students that there are three types of areas they should avoid:
 - Areas that are dangerous because of the people.
 - Areas that are dangerous because of what is there.
 - Areas that have a bad reputation.



5 Ask the students what they think it means when areas are dangerous because of people? What kind of people could be dangerous? Ask the students to think of areas that could be dangerous because of the people. Use examples such as:

- Neighborhoods where gangs are prevalent
- Isolated areas where transients might be
- Places where people are drinking or doing drugs

6 Talk with the students for a few minutes about the dangers of being in places where dangerous people might be. Talk about how some people are mean and have no regard for their safety.

7 Talk with the students about specific areas of this community that might be dangerous because of the people.

8 Help the students make a list of these places. Talk about each place and determine why it is dangerous, how it can be avoided, and the possible consequences for not avoiding it.

9 Now ask the students what they think it means when areas are dangerous because of what is there? How could a place be dangerous? What kind of things could be dangerous. Use examples such as:

- Rivers and lakes
- Train tracks
- Heavy traffic
- Caverns or large holes
- Isolated places

10 Talk with the students for a few minutes about why these places are dangerous. Ask the students what could happen in these places that make them dangerous.

11 Spend a few minutes talking with the students about specific places in this community that are dangerous. Talk about why these areas are dangerous and what could happen if they were to go there. Talk about the physical presence of danger and the likelihood of laws protecting these places from trespassers.



12 Ask the students what they think it means when areas are dangerous because of reputation? How can an area have a bad reputation? Use examples such as:

- Areas where there are bars
- Areas that are known as drug related
- Areas where adult bookstores are located

13 Spend a few minutes talking with the students about the dangers of places where people have been drinking or doing drugs. Spend a few minutes talking about how places where sexually explicit materials are available are also dangerous to hang around.

14 Spend a few minutes talking about specific areas within this community that have bad reputations for being dangerous. Talk about why these areas are dangerous and the possible consequences for venturing into these areas.

15 Now review all of the dangerous areas that have been discussed with the students.

16 Finally spend a few minutes talking with the students about what to do should they find themselves in a dangerous place or a dangerous situation.

17 Talk with the students about action steps to get out of a dangerous situation. Use examples such as:

- **Call 911.** Use your cell phone to call 911 and tell the students that no money is required at pay phones to call 911.
- **Yell for help.** Tell the students if they are in danger the best thing to do is draw attention to themselves by yelling for help.
- **Get out.** Tell the students that getting out of a dangerous place is important before something bad can happen.
- **Avoid.** Tell the students that avoiding dangerous places is the best way of staying out of danger.

Explain to the students that they should take the directory they have created and use it as a guide map of places to avoid.

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- 18 Remind the students that they live in a great community, but it is important that they know not only the resources to access, but also the dangerous places to avoid.

summary

This community has many positive things to offer the students. However, it also has dangerous people and places. The students need to know where this danger is and how to avoid it. Then they need to know how to deal with the danger should they find themselves in it.



and hints

outcomes



As the students identify potentially dangerous places share any known stories of bad things that have happened in these places. Use this example to point out the reality of this danger.

Talk with the students about how dangerous people can be anywhere and they should always be vigilant to assure that they do not end up isolated with a stranger.

After the students have created their directory, ask them to affirm that they will not venture into these areas and will take precautions to avoid these areas.

talking

points

- Talk with the students about all of the positive aspects of this community.
- Talk with the students about how people and places can be dangerous and it is up to them to know where these places are and avoid them.
- Talk with the students about the need for personal responsibility in staying out of dangerous places and the need for knowing how to get out of dangerous situations.



probing

questions



- Why are some people dangerous?
- What kinds of places are dangerous?
- What should you do if you find yourself in a dangerous situation that involves other people?



Skills Lesson Recap



the goal

While every community has many positive aspects and resources, every community also has negative aspects and dangerous places. Today you learned where the negative aspects of your community are and how to avoid these areas. You also learned why these are dangerous areas and the possible consequences for going into these areas.

exercise key points

- You identified areas within your own community that you should avoid. You then explained what it means when places are dangerous because of people.
- You explained what it means when places are dangerous because of what is there. You described how places could be dangerous due to the presence of river and lakes, train tracks, heavy traffic, caverns or large holes, and isolated places.
- You explained how places could be dangerous because of their reputations. For instance you described how places could have a bad reputation due to the presence of bars, drug activity, and areas containing adult bookstores.
- With assistance from your instructor you created a list of places to avoid within your community and also discussed what you should do in the event you find yourself in a dangerous area.

consequence of not

Failing to identify and avoid the dangerous places within your community will leave you vulnerable to the negative effects of such places.

using this skill



benefits

of using this skill

Knowing how to identify the dangerous areas within your community is the first step to avoiding the harmful elements of these areas.

Understanding Your Community - The Negatives

Think of any areas in your community that you think you should avoid because of dangerous people, because of dangerous situations, or because the area has a bad reputation.

What do you think it means when areas are dangerous because of people? Give some examples of places that are dangerous because of people.

How can you avoid these places?

What are the possible consequences of not avoiding these places?

What do you think it means when areas are dangerous because of what is there? How could a place be dangerous? Give examples.

What does it mean when an area is dangerous because of reputation? How can an area have a bad reputation? Give examples.

Think about and remember the following action steps you can take if you ever find yourself in a dangerous situation.

Call 911
Yell for Help
Get Out
Avoid

Student: _____ Facilitator: _____ Date: _____