



Topic: Relationships - Peer

Key Question:

How do you resolve conflicts?

This scenario was contributed by the teachers comprising the DtWtX Educational Advisory Committee at the 2012 Do the Write Thing Texas Leadership Summit.

Scenario:

Jose was angry at Damian for a comment he made while passing him in the hall. The class was using Xacto knives for a project in art class and Jose slipped the Xacto knife into his pocket. In the science room Jose fingered the knife as he waited for Damian to enter.

During the lab, Jose looked up and saw Damian staring at him. In a split second Jose was up and lunged at Damian with the knife. As Ms. Whittle moved to stop the fight, she saw the blood on Damian's shirt. Jose slashed Damian's arm, causing the students to call out, "Ms. Whittle, Jose stabbed Damian!" As Damian was taken out of school by EMS, Jose was heard saying, "I'll finish this."

Discussion questions:

1. What would you do if you knew Jose and Damian were angry at one another?
2. What could Jose and Damian's friends do to keep the situation from escalating?
3. How could Jose handle his anger differently?

Correlated TEKS:

ELAR 14A: Plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for conveying the intended meaning to an audience, determining appropriate topics through a range of strategies (discussion, background reading, personal interests, interviews), and developing a thesis or controlling idea.

ELAR 14 B: Develop drafts by choosing an appropriate organizational strategy (e.g., sequence of events, cause-effect, compare/contrast,) and building on ideas to create a focused, organized, and coherent piece of writing.

ELAR 14C: Revise drafts to ensure precise word choice and vivid images, consistent point of view, use of simple, compound and complex sentences, internal and external coherence, and the use of effective transitions after rethinking how well questions of purpose, audience, and genre have been addressed.

ELAR 17Aiii: Write a multi-paragraph essay to convey information about a topic that is logically organized with appropriate facts and details and includes no extraneous information or inconsistencies.

There are two ways to use the Scenarios:

1. Teacher Centered:
 - Read the scenarios.
 - Choose 3 based on the topics presented.
 - Present one scenario for the students to solve together and scribe for them on the board, overhead or Smartboard™. Consider the possible solutions and discuss why one could be considered a better solution over another.

2. Student Centered:
 - Scenarios are copied and given to students to review on their own.
 - Students are placed into groups.
 - They prepare their scenario to share with their peers (probing or open-ended questions).
 - After they become “experts” they move to another group to discuss and listen to the next group’s presentation.
 - At the end of the session, the class comes to summarize what they have learned during the experience.