

Twenty Ways to Combat Prejudice

Begin at Home

1. Know your roots and share your pride in your heritage with others.
2. Avoid stereotypical remarks and challenge those made by others.
3. Speak out against joke and slurs that target people or groups. Silence sends a message that you are in agreement. It is not enough to refuse to laugh.
4. Research your family tree and trace your family's involvement in the struggle for civil and human rights or the immigration experience. Identify personal heroes and positive role models.

In Your School

1. Establish a Diversity Club that serves as an umbrella organization to promote harmony and respect for others. Reach out to existing sports teams, drama clubs and other school groups for ideas and involvement.
2. Invite a motivational speaker who is a recognized civil or human rights leader to address an all-school assembly.
3. Organize an essay contest whose theme is either a personal experience with prejudice or a success story in the fight against it. Suggest that winning entries be published in your school newspaper, featured in your local newspaper or highlighted on a local cable program.
4. Create an anti-prejudice slogan for your school that could be printed as a bumper sticker.
5. Hold a "Rock Against Racism" concert, or a dance-a-thon, bike-a-thon, car wash, battle-of-the-bands and donate the proceeds from ticket sales to underwrite diversity training for your school.
6. Form a student-faculty committee to write "Rules of Respect" for your school and display the finished set in every classroom.
7. Invite your district attorney, police chief or a representative from the attorney general's office to speak to your school about civil rights, hate crimes and other legal aspects of the fight against prejudice.
8. Write an original song/chant/rap that celebrates your school's diversity and perform it at school rallies and other events.
9. Create a flag or poster that symbolizes your school's ideal of diversity and display it at school functions.

10. Produce a "Proud Out Loud" video comprised of interviews with students and their grandparents about their ethnic heritage and why they are proud of it.
11. Host a Poetry Slam in which students read aloud original poems/raps that break down stereotypes and promote respect for diversity.
12. Create a Public Service Announcement that promotes respect for diversity. Encourage local cable stations to run it in your community.
13. Devise a skit contest with themes that promote diversity.
14. Devote time in art classes to designing a Diversity Quilt with each patch representing a student's individual heritage . Have all classes combine their patchwork squares to form a school quilt for display in the community.
15. Construct a multi-media display that examines how today's media perpetuates stereo-types. Consider current films, T.V. music, advertising campaigns, newspapers, magazines and books.
16. Survey the colleges in your area and find out how they are dealing with issues of diversity on their campus

BRAINSTORM 20 MORE WAYS TO COMBAT PREUDICE IN YOUR SCHOOL AND YOUR COMMUNITY !!!!!