



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
Summer 2003

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Are Our Words Hurting Forever? Student & Teacher Needs Assessment Survey

GROUP MEMBERS: Lynne Napierala, Lynne Hunkovic, Lisa Higgins, Kellie Tompkins, Melissa Krawczyk, Ann Kipikas

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

The initial goal of the group was to create a survey focusing on the topics of school violence, harassment and safety. This action was the first step in implementing school change based on our reactions to the book "And Words Can Hurt Forever: How to Protect Adolescents from Bullying, Harassment, and Emotional Violence. Due to time constraints we were unable to create a survey for the teachers and at this time we have not created an evaluation tool

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

Looked over various school violence and harassment surveys found on the Internet, discussed the surveys at length and how they pertained to our school, reviewed our student and faculty handbooks in relation to their policies on the above topics, read a journal article appertaining to a student's perspective on violence

Week 1-Focus on violence

Week 2- Focus on harassment

Week 3- Focus on safety and finalizing of survey

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

Half of each of the 3 sessions (total of 10 hours) was dedicated to discussing the topics and the remaining time was used to create the survey questions. The survey will be administered in the Fall and again in the Spring (Pre- and post survey). The results of the survey will then

be analyzed and shared with the Administration with hopes that the results will be shared building-wide through a faculty meeting. Our intent is to create an action plan based on the findings of the survey

How has participating in this study group changed you as a teacher? Have any of your teaching practices changed?

By reading this book and participating in this study group we have become more aware of the issues that many of our students must deal with on a daily basis. Our concern for our building atmosphere and safety issues has become more acute. We have a desire to create a building-wide feeling of safety and acceptance in addition to our individual classrooms. Our heightened awareness of these issues has enabled us to deal with these situations more promptly.

What evidence is there that student achievement is improving as a result of participating in this study group? What kind of differences are you observing in your students?

Our intent is that once the survey results are obtained and an action plan is implemented, our student achievement will increase. As a result of this survey we hope that the students will be empowered to participate less in violence and harassment and focus more on safety and a positive environment.

What evidence is there that the goals of the study group have/have not been met?

We were able to create the survey and plan to implement it during the 2003-2004 school year.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

We believe that having a set meeting time and place was very beneficial. Our group was diverse and it allowed for differing ideas and opinions. Overall, it worked quite well for the entire group.

How can we make the study group program better?

It would be better if more funding were available to allow for greater participation by interested educators. More time would have allowed us to reach all of our goals.

