

To discuss the mixed messages portrayed about war in popular movies.

OVERVIEW

LEADER PARTICIPATION

- * Edit video clips using 5-6 movie portrayals of opposing views:
- * Movies showing realism include: "Platoon," "Glory," "Full Metal Jacket," "Red Dawn," "Born on the Fourth of July."
- * Movies depicting invincibility include: "Rambo," "Commando," "First Blood."
- * Considering the clips obtained, prepare a list of discussion questions.

GROUP BUILDING

- * Sing some familiar songs.

GROUP PRESENTATION

- * Introduce the topic.
- * Show the video clips.
- * Allow kids to react freely as they watch. Observe their facial expressions.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Break into small groups of 4-6. Ask each group to answer the following questions (in addition to any that you prepare):

- * What are the opposing war images?
- * Which image did you like better?
- * Which portrayal is the most realistic? Why or why not?
- * Imagine that your group has to write or direct a war movie. How would your movie portray war? What points or images would you want to communicate?

WRAP-UP

- * Have each group share their conclusions.
- * Restate that the media sends mixed and incomplete messages.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

- * Have kids name and describe other shows that provide mixed or confusing portrayals of war.
- * Ask if anyone in the group wants to discuss further issues about war (they may be addressed in the next meeting).
- * Assign leaders to follow up with kids (as a result of the open-ended discussion).

IMPLICATIONS

1. Through this type of training, young people will begin to discern mixed media messages.
2. This session provides a forum for kids to process and express their feelings about war.

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