

Character and Life Skills

Pre-viewing and Discussion Questions

Video Title: Peace, Self-Management

Grade Level: High School

Pre-viewing: Before watching the video...

1. Close your eyes for a moment and think of the most peaceful place imaginable. Silently ask yourself:
 - What are the sounds that create peace in this imaginary place?
 - What are the smells that create peace in this imaginary place?
 - What are the sights that create peace in this imaginary place?
 - Do you associate any tastes with this peaceful imaginary place? Describe them.
 - What are the textures, or, what do things feel like in this peaceful imaginary place?
2. Still silently, think of the one sound, sight, smell, taste, or texture that would change this peaceful place into a place of chaos. What will it take to bring peace back to that situation?
3. Open your eyes, and turn to someone you trust in the room and share your peaceful place and the sensory image that destroyed that peace.
4. Explain to students that they should be prepared to make connections between their imagination's peaceful place and the video they are about to watch.

Discussion Questions: After you watch the video...

1. How does your imagined peaceful place experience compare/contrast with Jordan's story?
2. The film opens with three very brief stories of young people involved in situations with gun violence: the death of a son, the death of a friend, and a young man convicted in the shooting of a teenage boy. How do you relate to these three stories? Are they too familiar or are they foreign to your own experiences? Do they relate to any of the fears you have? Explain.
3. Samuel Gordon, Ph.D, Clinical Psychologist tell us, "Being in a wheelchair is sort of a combination... You can sort of feel imprisoned in a wheelchair and there's a certain part of your body that's dead." Explain Dr. Gordon's comparison. Use your own words to create two or more other similes, metaphors, or images to compare the impact of having to use a wheelchair resulting from gun violence.
4. Jordan tells the viewers to "Forget the gun violence you see on the movies and TV! I can't describe it, man! It's like getting hit with a sledge hammer!" Describe the images people get from seeing gun violence in the movies and on television and compare it to Jordan's description. Is the reality anything like the fiction? Explain your answer.
5. Jordan Cook talks about what he deals with by living in a wheelchair. People stare or look away, people look down on him, he can't really date because he feels "inadequate," and he's dependent on other people for every day support. What, in your opinion, would be the worst part of having to spend the rest of your life in a wheelchair because of gun violence? Explain your answer.

