



Unit: Conflict Resolution
Skill 38: Mapping the Conflict
Activity A: The Nature of Conflict

Activity Skills:

Small group interaction, brainstorming, listening, discussion.

Leadership Skills:

Understanding the basic concepts of conflict.

Suggested Level:

Beginning

Time:

30 minutes

Supplies needed:

- Large paper.
- Post it notes.
- Markers.

Do Ahead:

Source:

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Based On:

<http://www.go.ednet.ns.ca/glooscap/peacefulschool/unit1.html>

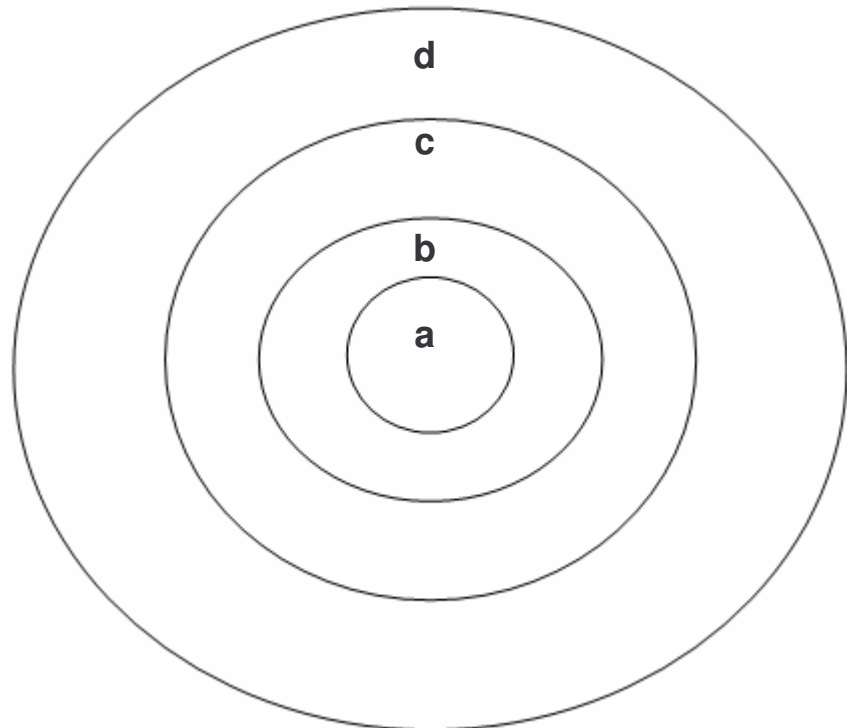
BACKGROUND:

The word conflict has many meanings. It can mean; war, disagreement among people, mental struggle, etc.

The key objectives of this lesson are learning that conflicts are a natural part of everyday life, can be handled in positive or negative ways, can have creative or destructive results and can be opportunities for personal growth and social change.

WHAT TO DO:

On a large piece of chart paper, print the word **conflict** and circle it.



Ask the entire group discuss what the term “conflict” means. What does it mean to you? Brainstorm as many words associated with conflict as possible. Write these words on post it notes and attach these words to the word on the chart paper.

Ask the group to identify which words are negative and which are positive. Make two categories “Positive” and “Negative” move each word to one of the two categories. For example: “angry,” “sad” would be negative but “solution” would be positive.

When each word has been placed in a category ask the following discussion questions:

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Notes:

- Which category has the most words? Why?
- Was it harder to think of positive words? Why?
- Why do we associate negative things with conflict?
- Can you describe some conflicts which ended in a positive way?

Create an outline for a conflict concept map by drawing four large concentric circles around the original circle with the word conflict inside. The center circle will represent the conflict followed by cause, response and result.

Work in small groups to write the following :

- a) Two or three words describing the meaning of conflict
- b) Two or three causes of conflict
- c) Two or three responses to conflict
- d) Two or three results of conflict

Then ask each group to share their answers to create a concept map on the chart paper. Write the words in the appropriate circle.

TALK IT OVER:

(NOTE: Emphasize that you want to focus on the behaviors not people.)

Reflect:

- What do you think it means to have a conflict - with another person?
- What are some common conflicts you discussed in your groups?
- Why do conflicts occur?

Apply:

- Are conflicts necessary? Why?
- What are some helpful things to do when a conflict occurs?

BEYOND THE BOX:

Optional Homework:

Find a newspaper article that outlines a specific conflict among people, a family, your community, our nation, or the world. Share the story with the group and map it using the same model above. Ask the following questions. What is the conflict? What caused this conflict? How did the people involved respond? Finally what was the result?

Resources and Web Links: