

Verbal Venom

WebQuest Description: Many people are unsure of what constitutes as verbal abuse. Others might not even be aware that abuse can be verbal. Many people experience this type of abuse throughout their lives. The effects of verbal abuse are too impactful to go unheard.

In this webquest you will learn what verbal abuse is and how to recognize it.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: Health / PE

Keywords: Verbal abuse, abuse, derogatory language, signs of abuse

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Introduction

Robert and Katie are both 17 and have been dating for almost a year now. Their relationship can be very extreme at times. Robert is known as a very calm person while Katie is known to be very emotional and, at times, explosive. Over the past month, Robert has started to express concerns that he doesn't feel as strongly about Katie as he used to to his friend Jason. He decides to tell Katie that he wants to take a break. As Robert's good friend, Jason begins to get concerned when Katie becomes very upset with Robert and starts belittling him over the phone. Katie's choice of words were not nice anyway, but Robert brushes it off as no big deal. The next day Jason over hears Katie telling Robert that he is crazy and they are meant to be together forever. This does not surprise Jason coming from Katie since she never agrees with Robert and often times tells him he is wrong or convinces him otherwise. To add onto this, Jason has noticed that Robert isn't as outgoing and upbeat as he was a year ago. Jason can't help but wonder if Katie and the way she speaks to Robert has an relation to this. He is beginning to think that Robert might be a victim of verbal abuse, but needs your help in determining if this is true or not. Is Jason right?

Tasks

Now that you know all of the details, you need to help Jason identify if he is right or wrong. Then you must give Jason advise on how to proceed and help Robert. You will first need to research verbal abuse and answer the following questions: 1. Define Verbal Abuse. 2. What are the signs of verbal abuse? 3. Who can be a victim of verbal abuse? 3. What common forms of verbal abuse apply best to this scenario? 4. What is the intent of the abuser? 5. How can you help a victim of abuse? <https://www.liveabout.com/how-can-someone-identify-and-respond-to-verbal-abuse-1102424> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-mysteries-love/201503/15-common-forms-verbal-abuse-in-relationships> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/toxic-relationships/201704/forms-emotional-and-verbal-abuse-you-may-be-overlooking>

Process

1. You will use the resources above to answer the questions in a group of 2-3 people. 2. Use this information and relate it to the scenario. As a group, decide if the scenario represent verbally abusive behavior? Make a list of connections that support Jason's theory (Robert is in a verbally abusive relationship) or that oppose his inclination. 3. Use your new information and list to come to a conclusion and write Jason one letter per group explaining why he is correct or incorrect on his assumption. In the letter you must define Verbal Abuse and state three reasons why he is correct or incorrect. Be sure to use specific examples from the scenario to support your reasoning. If you feel Robert is in a verbal relationship, give Jason some advise on how to help Robert out of the situation. 4. You will give a short presentation on what you have written and why. This presentation will last no longer than 3 minutes and include what you feel to be the most important take away from this assignment.

Evaluation

Here is how your assignment will be graded.

Category and Score	0	1	2	3	Score
Understanding of Topic	Shows no understanding of content.	Shows little knowledge but no understanding.	Shows good understanding of the topic.	Shows excellent comprehension.	

Category and Score	0	1	2	3	Score
Critically applies information to scenario	No critical analysis	Shows basic analysis or information and scenario.	Great analysis of scenario with some connections to research.	Excellent analysis of topic and its impacts and connection to scenario.	
Organization of work	No work	Work is scattered and hard to understand.	Good organization.	All information has excellent flow and is very easy to follow.	
Presentation	No presentation	Little to no eye contact and unclear communication	All points are covered and mentioned with eye contact and good presentation	Informative presentation that shows critical analysis and application of information to scenario.	
				Total Score	

Conclusion

I hope this has been an informative lesson for everyone. By spreading awareness of verbal abuse we can help eliminate the struggle. By being able to identify the signs and symptoms you have become more aware already. By knowing how to act when spotting verbal abuse we can help those in need.

Teacher Page

After this lesson students will be able to: Define verbal abuse
Define at least 3 symptoms/signs
Be able to recognize these symptoms/signs in real life situations
Take responsible action towards a suspected abusive situation

Standards

Standard 1 - Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.
Standard 4 - Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
Standard 5 - Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Credits

Other