

School-Wide Dialogue Questions for the International Day of Peace, and Beyond

Rationale and Procedure Options

Since the International Day of Peace occurs near the beginning of the school year, it is a perfect opportunity to begin a school-wide dialogue about how conflict is resolved and peace is cultivated within the school community. The goal of this set of questions is to help students and teachers reflect upon our *individual* role in conflict and peace.

I have included a flyer that shows how one school incorporated these questions into the first day of International Week of Peace events.

These questions could also be used in a school-wide survey, to gather information about school climate and to help pinpoint ways in which to foster stronger relationships and a healthier school climate. If you have a longer amount of time for discussion, I recommend conducting a “think-pair-share”, where students write briefly in response to each question, discuss their responses with their neighbor, and then report out to the whole class. If you have less time, you may want to openly discuss the questions one at a time with the group as a whole.

Additionally, these questions can be used to open a unit or activity analyzing historical conflicts.

Dialogue Questions:

Questions related to conflict:

- ❖ How would you define “conflict”? How do you know it when you see it?
- ❖ What specific conflicts can you name--at CVU, nationally, and internationally?
- ❖ What leads to conflict in the first place? And what makes conflict escalate to violence?
- ❖ How do individuals contribute to conflict? Can you list ways in which you might have contributed to conflict in the past?
- ❖ What de-escalates conflict? What are different ways that conflict can be resolved?

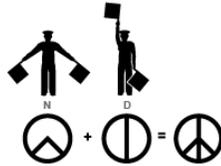
Questions related to peace:

- ❖ How would you define “peace”? How do you know it when you see it?
- ❖ What different sources--or evidence--of peace can you name--at CVU, nationally, and internationally?
- ❖ What leads to peace in the first place? Is peace simply the absence of conflict, or is it something that must be cultivated?
- ❖ How do individuals contribute to peace? Can you list ways in which you might have contributed to peace in the past?
- ❖ What does peace look like--in your home, among your friends, in our school, in our country or in our world?

School-wide flier example

circle, representing the concept of total or complete, surrounds the N and D signifying total or complete nuclear disarmament.'

<http://www.teachpeace.com/peacesymbolhistory.htm>



★ Monday, September 21 Day of Dialogue Activity

Please use these prompts to start a conversation in your Advisory about the various ways that each of us might contribute to conflict and to peace. The purpose here is to foster mindfulness about the effects that our small, everyday actions might have on those around us. You will find it helpful to discuss the questions in order, but I do realize that time is limited--so I have underlined the essential questions that I hope all Advisories address.

First, discuss these questions:

- ❖ How would you define "conflict"? How do you know it when you see it?
- ❖ What specific conflicts can you name--at CVU, nationally, and internationally?
- ❖ What leads to conflict in the first place? And what makes conflict escalate to violence?
- ❖ How do individuals contribute to conflict? Can you list ways in which *you* might have contributed to conflict in the past?
- ❖ What de-escalates conflict? What are different ways that conflict can be resolved?

Then tackle these questions:

- ❖ How would you define "peace"? How do you know it when you see it?
- ❖ What different sources--or evidence--of peace can you name--at CVU, nationally, and internationally?
- ❖ What leads to peace in the first place? Is peace simply the absence of conflict, or is it something that must be cultivated?
- ❖ How do individuals contribute to peace? Can you list ways in which *you* might have contributed to peace in the past?
- ❖ What does peace look like--in your home, among your friends, in our school, in our country or in our world?
- ❖ What can you do to actively cultivate peace in your community?