**Pyramid of Hate Activity**

**By: Tom Seib**

**Grades 6-12**

**Objectives:**

**1) Students will examine how hate escalates and the difficulty of stopping it once it begins.**

**2) Students will be able to illustrate the relationship between the different forms of hate.**

**3) Students will learn how changing their behavior can make a contribution to fighting hatred.**

**Instructions: Hand out a blank sheet of paper to each student, tell them to tear it in half. On one piece ask them to write down an incident that they have seen or experienced or heard about which was mean or hateful toward someone or some group of people. On the other piece of paper ask them to write down another incident that they have heard about, read about, or learned about in their classes or on television/movies which has had an effect on people.**

**On the board draw a set of scales, illustrating that one side represents the least serious and the opposite side represents the most severe. Have students come up and place their examples somewhere on the scale where they believe it fits.**

**Talk through the different examples and question if there is any relationship between them. Then, physically remove all the less serious incidents and ask students if the more serious ones would be possible without the rest?**

**Distribute the Pyramid of Hate and discuss how the only way we can stop and prevent those things at the top of the Pyramid is by stopping the prejudice, name-calling, jokes, apathy, etc. at the bottom.**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. **What factors cause hate to escalate?**
2. **How can an individual stop the escalation? How can communities stop the escalation? (Laws, school policies, education, etc.)**
3. **Could any of the sections of the Pyramid happen in isolation?**
4. **What is the relationship between the top and the bottom ends of the scale?**
5. **What is the cost to the individual who doesn’t act to challenge hate? What is the cost to the targets? What is the result for society?**