

A

Proposal for Anti-Bullying Organization

Bullying. We have all been subjected to it, whether as witnesses, victims, or the bullies themselves. Recent studies in Ontario have shown that 32% of adolescents admitted to being bullies, and 25% had been bullied.¹ These statistics show that bullying among children and adolescents is a problem that needs to be dealt with.

So what exactly is bullying? It has been defined as “intentional, unprovoked abuse of power by one or more children to inflict pain or cause distress to another child on repeated occasions”.² Bullying consists of a pattern of repeated confrontations, and can involve physical, verbal or emotional aggression.

In regards to anthropology, bullies have been around for as long as there have been communities. By the 17th century, the term bully was used to describe an unreasonably bold and violent person.³

There are many psychological forces that drive bullying. Sometimes a bully is just looking for attention. When they make fun of someone else, it makes them feel big and powerful. They tend to have trouble talking about their problems, so they pick on other children instead. Victims of bullying are usually loners and thus an easy target for bullies. Victims also tend to suffer from low self-esteem. Being bullied leaves victims with feelings of anxiety, insecurity, sleeping difficulties and sadness.

Sociologically, many bullies learn aggressive behaviour from a violent family member, often their father. Bullies frequently come from a home where they were given little attention or supervision. In society, young people see self-centered adults striving for success, being power-hungry, and competing to get ahead. These adults have replaced

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bullying with fists with bullying with mind and money. Children see this and may mimic this behaviour in the only way they know how: with their fists.

It is obvious that bullying is a problem in our society, and our organization will strive to help those involved. Our mission is to help parents identify when their children are either bullies or victims of bullying based on their behavioural patterns. We will provide psychological counseling for the victims, who may be suffering from low self-esteem. The bullies involved will also receive counseling on how they can solve their problems through discussion. We will also visit schools to engage children in role playing activities that will help them understand the cause and effect of bullying - how it feels.

The creation of this organization will have a major impact on society. Children will have someplace to go when they are being bullied, and they will be given tips on how to deter the bully. Children who have been identified as bullies will be sent to our organization to receive an inside look on how bullying affects others, and they will be given a chance to talk to someone about how they feel. This will allow individuals, family and the community to feel that their children are safe, and that there is an organization out there designed to help children and their families deal with bullying. Some studies have shown that 60% of boys who were identified as bullies in grades 6 to 9 had a criminal conviction by the age of 24. Victims of bullies were found to exhibit high levels of depression up to 10 years after the bullying had ended.⁴ Our organization, in the long-term, will make communities a safer place, where children only have to enjoy their parks and streets, and not worry about their safety.

¹ www.findarticles.com

² www.findarticles.com

³ CBC News in Review

⁴ CBC News in Review

LOW LEVEL 3

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Sources

<http://members.aol.com/kthynoll/schools.htm>

www.kidshealth.org/PageManager.

www.findarticles.com/cf_dls/m0867/1999_Oct/56982155/print.jhtml

CBC News in Review Resource Guide, *Bullies in Schools*, September 2001.

Teacher's Notes**Knowledge/Understanding**

- The student identifies the problem of bullying with considerable accuracy, using credible statistics related to the target group (i.e., children and adolescents) to emphasize the seriousness and widespread nature of the problem. The student also provides a clear description of what bullying consists of.
- The student describes the proposed organization with some clarity. The purpose and functions of the organization are clear (e.g., “Our mission is to help parents identify when their children are either bullies or victims of bullying based on their behavioural patterns.”). However, the form that the organization will take is vague. It is unclear who will be involved in this organization, and its base of operation is not addressed.

Thinking/Inquiry

- Overall, the student assesses the influence of social forces with considerable accuracy, as illustrated by the following:
 - a) The student assesses the influence of psychological factors with considerable accuracy. He or she identifies factors affecting both bullies and their victims (e.g., bullies “tend to have trouble talking about their problems, so they pick on other children instead. Victims of bullying are usually loners and thus an easy target for bullies.”).
 - b) The student also assesses the influence of sociological factors with considerable accuracy. He or she notes that a number of home influences can lead a child to become a bully (e.g., “... many bullies learn aggressive behaviour from a violent family member, often their father. Bullies frequently come from a home where they were given little attention or supervision.”).
 - c) However, the student is only somewhat successful when assessing the social forces involved from an anthropological perspective, stating only that “bullies have been around for as long as there have been communities”.

Communication

- The student justifies the formation of an anti-bullying organization with considerable effectiveness, proposing realistic measures to address the problem (e.g., counselling for bullies and the victims of bullies). These measures are made more credible by being linked with the effects of the social forces mentioned earlier (e.g., the counselling for bullies will focus on “how they can solve their problems through discussion”). Furthermore, by stating that the organization intends to extend its program into schools, the student shows an awareness that the organization will be more effective if it collaborates with educational institutions in finding solutions to the problem.
- The student uses social science terminology with considerable appropriateness and accuracy (e.g., “emotional aggression”, “easy target”, “aggressive behaviour”, “self-centered”, “psychological counseling”). However, the student occasionally distorts normal language use in attempting to adhere to social science terminology (e.g., the student asserts that children see adults “bullying with mind and money” and mimic this behaviour by becoming bullies “with their fists”).

Application

- The student makes predictions about the impact of the organization with considerable appropriateness, outlining first the immediate benefits for both victims (e.g., “tips on how to deter the bully”) and bullies (e.g., “a chance to talk to someone about how they feel”) and concluding with a broader statement about improvements in the long term (i.e., “Our organization . . . will make communities a safer place, where students only have to enjoy their parks and streets, and not worry about their safety.”).

Comments

This work is representative of a low level-3 performance. The student demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement of the expectations in the Thinking/ Inquiry, Communication, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. The student also demonstrates a considerable degree of achievement with respect to one criterion in the Knowledge/Understanding category. However, in the other criterion in the Knowledge/Understanding category, the student demonstrates only some degree of achievement – i.e., achievement that is more characteristic of level 2.

The result is an effective and well-researched proposal.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- provide a more detailed description of the structure and composition of the proposed organization;
- conduct more in-depth research in order to provide more information about the social forces that have contributed to the problem of bullying from an anthropological perspective.