

TOPIC: GUNS

OBJECTIVE: to help the students explore all the ramifications of presence of guns in society.

MATERIALS: Newspaper article about youth killed/injured in shooting. (Unfortunately there is at least one per week). Get the number of Americans killed by gunshot for the current year to date of class - it is available on the Sony Building in Time Square, NYC.

ACTIVITY: Read the article to the class and let them discuss how they feel. Do this in an orderly fashion so that everyone gets to say something. Too often the quiet student is the one most effected by a topic.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever seen a gun? touched one? fired one?
2. How did it feel?
3. Do you know someone who has a gun?
4. Have you ever been afraid at school because of someone with a gun? at home? at work? out on the street? at a club?
5. Do you believe that every American should have "the right to bear arms" as stated in the Constitution, or should the Constitution be changed?
6. Should you need a license to have a gun?
7. Would you give up a gun to the New Rochelle Gun Amnesty Program?
8. What would you turn a gun in for? \$100 gift certificate? Concert tickets? Toys? Food?
9. Do you think it is right for the government to trade guns for toys? Food? Concert tickets?

READING: Matthew 26: 47-52

And suddenly while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a large number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the traitor had arranged a sign with them saying, "The one I kiss, he is the man. Arrest him". So he went up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi," and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "My friend, do what you are here for." Then they came forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. And suddenly, one of the followers of Jesus grasped his sword and drew it: he stuck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear. Jesus then said, "Put your sword back, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."

WRAP UP: Make the students aware that weapons have been apart of society forever. We can't control anyone else but ourselves. But to paraphrase the Scripture reading, "He who lives by the gun, will probably die by a gun".

FOLLOW UP CLASS;

Contact the Youth Officer of the New Rochelle Police Department and/or a member of the Gun Amnesty Program to come in the next week and explain the program to the students and to discuss with them any of the questions and/or concerns brought up in class.