

Edgar's Story

Student Worksheet

This is the story of a young man, named Edgar, who decided to join a gang. What happens to Edgar in this story is very real and can happen to anyone who joins a gang.

Part One:

Edgar used to enjoy playing basketball at a neighborhood park. One day a gang decided to claim the neighborhood park as their territory and would not let Edgar play there anymore.

After the gang claimed the park as their territory they began to hang out there more. When Edgar and his sister went to the park, they saw the gang members destroying it with graffiti.

The gang was trying to recruit kids from Edgar's neighbourhood, so one day they asked Edgar to join them. Edgar had never learned about the bad things that the gangs do, so he did not know what to tell them.

Unfortunately, Edgar decided to join the gang. The gang members initiated him into the gang by beating him up. Edgar had thought that being in the gang would be an opportunity for him to make new friends, and to have some fun with the gang. He thought the gang was more like a club, but Edgar's decision to join a gang was wrong.

Part Two:

One day, after he had joined the gang, Edgar went for a ride with some of the older gang members. While they were driving through another gang's neighborhood, one of the members of Edgar's gang fired some shots at the house of a rival gang member. The little sister of *that* gang member was shot.

Edgar never thought that his being in the gang would involve him in the shooting of a little girl. He didn't like what had happened. He wished he would have never joined the gang, Without his really wanting to, he had become a part of the gang's violence.

After the shooting, the car that Edgar was in, was stopped by the police. While searching the car, the police found weapons and illegal drugs. Everyone in the car, including Edgar, was arrested.

Part Three:

After spending some time in jail, Edgar had to go to court for his involvement in the shooting.

In court the judge found out about Edgar's involvement in gang activity, and because he was in the car when the shooting happened, Edgar was considered to be a part of it. Consequently, Edgar was sent to jail.

While in jail, Edgar thought about the many the bad things he did after he had joined the gang, like using drugs. He remembered some of the gang members that he knew who were drug addicts, and the bad things that had happened to them.

While in jail Edgar realized that many young people who are involved in gangs are being killed because of gang violence.

Part Four:

Edgar often thought about the many activities he used to like to do before he joined the gang, like playing baseball, and basketball; going swimming and rollerblading; playing soccer and football, and participating in park programs. He remembered that when he joined the gang, the gang would not allow him to participate in these activities anymore.

In jail Edgar often thought about the job opportunities that he could have prepared for if he would have not joined a gang, and would have stood in school. He could have been a doctor, a nurse, or a x-ray technician; a teacher or a coach; a school principal; a lawyer, an architect, a builder, a mechanic, or even a soldier.

When Edgar got out of jail he had grown up. He grew-up in jail. When he went to look for a job, nobody wanted to hire him.

Edgar once had a choice, to join a gang or to not join one. You have the same decision to make. The choice is yours.

Edgar's Story

Teacher Resource

Discussion Questions:

Who does the park really belong to?

How does graffiti make the park look?

What do you think Edgar should do when asked to join the gang?

Was the little girl, who was shot, in a gang?

Would you like to grow-up in jail? What would you miss out on?

Why won't people hire Edgar now that he is out of jail?

What will you decide to do if someone asks you to join a gang?

What should Edgar have done when he was asked to join the gang?

To enhance this worksheet, gather pictures and create a slide show, overheads, storyboard or another visual aid of your choice.

You may want to include pictures of:

1. Edgar and his friends playing basketball in a nice neighbourhood park
2. a gang claiming the neighbourhood park and spraying graffiti
3. the gang asking Edgar to join
4. Edgar getting beat up
5. the gang with guns
6. police officers and handcuffs
7. Edgar behind jail bars
8. a judge in the courtroom
9. Edgar lonely in jail
10. older Edgar daydreaming about his life before jail
11. older Edgar trying to get a job

Being Involved With Gangs Can Hurt My Family

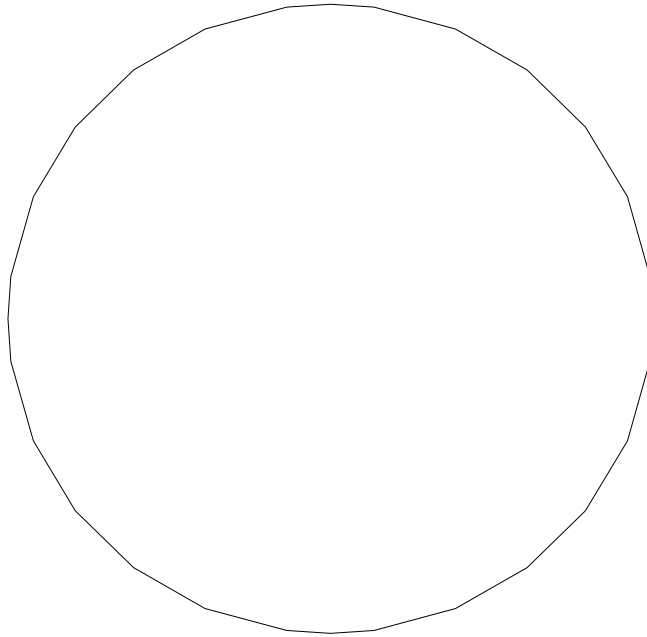
<p>YOUR FAMILY'S HOUSE GETS VANDALIZED BY GANGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gangs write graffiti on your family's house or other property ○ Rival gangs members break into your family's house and wreck it 	<p>YOU LOSE INTEREST IN SCHOOL AND IN GETTING AN EDUCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You stop doing your school work and homework ○ Your grades go down ○ You begin to fail ○ You get expelled or suspended from school or you drop out ○ Your family is disappointed because you don't graduate ○ You can't get a job, so your family has to support you
<p>YOUR GETTING INJURED OR KILLED AND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your family will have to take care of you for the rest of your life if you become disabled because of gang violence and you are confined to a wheelchair ○ Your family will have to pay for medical bills ○ Your family will have to pay for your funeral if you die ○ Your family, especially your parents, will suffer grief (a lot of sadness) because of a serious injury to you, or because of your death 	<p>YOU PUT YOUR FAMILY IN DANGER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your house becomes a target for gang drive-by shootings ○ A member of your family gets injured or killed. It could be your mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandma, grandpa, or the new baby that just came home from the hospital ○ Rival (enemy) gangs threaten or beat-up your brother or sister
<p>YOU START TO GET INVOLVED IN CRIME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You attract the attention of the police ○ You get arrested and can go to jail ○ Your family is hurt and worried about you while you are locked up ○ Your family might have to pay for the crime that you did, or for your being in jail ○ Your family is embarrassed 	<p>YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH DRUGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You develop a drug habit or become a drug addict ○ You try to hurt your family while you are high on drugs ○ You get caught and arrested, or kicked out of school ○ The police search your house because you are selling drugs
<p>YOU DEVELOP THE "I DON'T CARE ATTITUDE"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You stop caring about yourself, your family, and your future ○ You don't listen to your parents ○ The gang becomes more important to you than anything else 	<p>YOU BECOME A BAD EXAMPLE IN YOUR FAMILY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your brothers, sisters and loved ones hang around with gangs because you do ○ You show family members you don't care as much about them as you do about your gang

<p><i>YOUR FAMILY'S HOUSE GETS VANDALIZED BY GANGS</i></p>	<p><i>YOU LOSE INTEREST IN SCHOOL AND IN GETTING AN EDUCATION</i></p>
<p><i>YOUR GETTING INJURED OR KILLED AND:</i></p>	<p><i>YOU PUT YOUR FAMILY IN DANGER</i></p>
<p><i>YOU START TO GET INVOLVED IN CRIME</i></p>	<p><i>YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH DRUGS</i></p>
<p><i>YOU DEVELOP THE "I DON'T CARE ATTITUDE"</i></p>	<p><i>YOU BECOME A BAD EXAMPLE IN YOUR FAMILY</i></p>

Being Involved With Gangs Can Hurt My Family and Loved Ones

Under each heading, list examples of how being involved in a gang can hurt your family.

A Vicious Circle – Gang Violence



Questions:

- 1. Why do you think the violence continues?**
- 2. Can you stop the circle of violence? What Can you do to avoid being apart of the circle of violence?**
- 3. How would it make you feel if it was you, your family or your loved one that was hurt by gang violence?**

POLICE OFFICER'S PRESENTATION GUIDE

The purpose of this presentation is for grade six students to meet a police officer that works in their neighborhood, and to hear from them about their experience with gangs.

It is the intent of this presentation to help children understand why gangs and gang activity are of serious concern to law enforcement, and how gangs and gang activity put children and the community in danger. This presentation should also help children gain a better understanding and appreciation of the local Police Department. The police officer should be prepared to speak and respond to questions. The outline and questions below are to assist the officer to prepare for their presentation, but are offered only as a guideline. The use of props or photographs could help to make the presentation more interesting for children.

Police Officer's Guide.

A. Introduce yourself and talk about your background

1. Talk about where you grew up, and why you became a police officer.
2. Were there gangs around your neighborhood when you were growing up? How did you avoid becoming involved in them?

B. Talk to the students about what you do in your job as a police officer.

1. What are your main job duties and how do you do them?
2. What happens to a young person when you arrest them?

C. Gangs

1. Talk about your experience as a police officer with youth that are involved in gang activity. What are some bad things that you have seen happen to them?
2. Talk about some of the different types of youth gangs that you have encountered or are currently out on the streets, i.e. traditional gangs, taggers, etc.
3. Explain to the students what would cause you to suspect that someone is involved in gang activity?
4. How does youth gang activity make your job more difficult?
5. Tell the students about any experience you or your comrades have had informing the parents of a young gang member that their son or daughter is seriously injured, or dead because of their gang activity.
6. Talk to the students about the importance of their staying out of gangs, avoiding gang activity, and not hanging around with youth that are involved with gangs.

D. Question and Answers

E. Pass out any handouts or police department promotional items.

F. For more information on what students have been learning about gangs, please refer to the Regina Police Service website under gang prevention - curriculum support material - http://www.reginapolice.ca/gang_prevention.html.

GANG AWARENESS QUIZ

Take the quiz below to find out how much you know about gangs.

- T F 1) A gang is a group of friends that always hang out at the same place.
- T F 2) Some gangs are good even though they might do bad things sometimes.
- T F 3) Gangs target everyone not just kids who get in trouble a lot.
- T F 4) Girls don't have to worry about getting involved with gangs.
- T F 5) Gang members treat each other like "family".
- T F 6) Gang members will lie to you to try to get you to join.
- T F 7) Gangs are only located in large cities.
- T F 8) To prove themselves, new members often must beat an innocent person,
rob a store, or shoot someone.
- T F 9) If you are in a gang, you won't get hurt because they will protect you.
- T F 10) Today, most teens belong to gangs.
- T F 11) Being involved in your community in sports, clubs and other positive
activities can help you to stay away from gangs.



Alternatives to Getting Involved With Gangs Questionnaire

Please fill out the following questionnaire to help our class gather information to create a list of alternatives to gang involvement.

1. What do you and your friends like to do in your spare time (please be specific)?
2. What activities would you like to get involved with if you had the opportunity?
3. List five activities/groups that your school offers that you could join.
4. List five things to do in the community (skateboarding...).
5. What are some activities that will help kids stay away from gangs?
6. List any other alternatives to gang involvement that you can think of.