



Module 2, Unit 2, Lesson Plan 2

Embracing NONVIOLENCE365®: Activism and Advocacy Today (Grades 6-12)

Learning Targets/Objectives:

- Describe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Six Steps of Nonviolent Social Change

Success Criteria:

- Design a website that applies Dr. King's Six Steps of Nonviolent Social Change to a contemporary issue of the students' choosing

Lesson Content Overview:

Many believe resolving a conflict is the goal when an issue or problem arises. Nonviolence365® recognizes that two parties will never truly resolve a conflict if reconciliation is not the ultimate goal. Reconciliation is key because while resolving the conflict or issue one's thoughts and intent is always to discover a win-win solution. Principles 2, 3 and 5 are the basis for your motivation.

Principle 2- Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding

Principle 3- Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice and not people

Principle 5 - Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate

Understanding and embracing the principles causes you to be other-people-centered and unselfish. Your desire is not to beat or defeat the other person because this would naturally cause the person to be viewed as your enemy. Instead you address and challenge the evil act of the person or persons and reject the tendency to see the person as evil. You choose to educate and enlighten the person causing harm regarding your position with the intention of helping them recognize their unjust act.

Life will present you with many situations, some of which may appear extremely negative, however embracing Nonviolence365® provides you with ways to transform these challenges into positive outcomes and offer multiple opportunities for reconciliation.

Embracing Nonviolence365® as a means of nonviolent social change is a life changing choice. Reading and studying Dr. King's philosophy and principles will help deepen your understanding and increase your knowledge of why and how to apply it to your daily life. Study should be followed by action. Start by making small, yet immediate changes in your personal life. Review the six principles of

nonviolence and six steps for nonviolent social change and commit to applying them to a specific issue or concern in your life for the next 30, 60 and 90 days.

When you do this, you have started your journey of nonviolent social change. START NOW and don't quit! One person at a time embracing Nonviolence365® will build the "Beloved Community."

This lesson is designed to make you aware of the primary practical application of Nonviolence365® as a tool for effecting change. You will be able to use the knowledge gained through Nonviolence365® to become advocates and activists addressing issues of critical importance in our world today. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his followers were strong advocates and activists for social change through the use of Nonviolence365® using the six principles and steps learned throughout Module Two.

An advocate pleads in favor of an issue and defends that cause by providing facts to support the argument being made. In other words, an advocate is one who speaks and educates on behalf of others on important issues. You might be an advocate for your little sister or brother when the people aren't able to communicate well or properly speak up for themselves.

An activist is involved in the action to bring about change, be it social, political, economic, or environmental. The youth exposed to The King Center's curriculum will be taught to use Nonviolence365® as their means of creating social change (activism).

Youth should and must be a part of addressing the issues occurring in the world today. Too often, youth are made to feel that their opinions do not matter or that they cannot have an impact. Using Nonviolence365®, youth will be able to work together just as Martin Luther King, Jr. and his followers did in the 50s and 60s, to affect all types of societal changes in their communities, including those issues that deal with violence.

Instructional Sequence:

Opener:

Students will [read](#) about the first time Dr. King's house was bombed on January 30, 1956, just two months into the Montgomery Bus Boycott. They must then provide a reaction to how King responded. See the quote below:

"We believe in law and order," King said, about the assassination attempt on his life. Speaking from what remained of his front porch, King looked upon those who gathered in his front yard and insisted: "Don't get your weapons. He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword."¹

Class Discussion:

Using the Lesson Content Overview, the teacher will lead class in a discussion on the difference

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr. quoted in Joe Azbell. "Blast Rocks Residence of Bus Boycott Leader." The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, Stanford University. January 31, 1956. Retrieved from <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/blast-rocks-residence-bus-boycott-leader-joe-azbell>

between an advocate and an activist.

Small Group Collaboration:

Working in groups of three to four, students will generate answers to the following questions.

- What is an advocate? Can a young person like you be an advocate? Elaborate.
- What percentage of the population, age eighteen and younger, goes unheard? Do you consider yourself part of the "unheard" masses? If so, how can you change your status?
- Identify an example of youth activism today. What are some other ways that young people can get involved in their schools, neighborhoods, and communities?

Formative Assessment:

- Surf the internet and find two youth groups that are involved in some type of activism and or service learning in your area.

Adaptations for Student Needs

IEP:

- Sizes of student groups range
- Students team up with a peer partner, while others would prefer to work individually.
- There is a variety of small-group work
- Chunking information
- Visual cues and wait time
- Visual supports (maps, images, PowerPoint slides, handouts)
- Assessments will be modified, and students given extra time

ELD

- Modified/simplified reading material
- Content-related lists/handouts of key terms
- Text is supported by visuals and connected to real-life experiences