

Facilitators' Guide:

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Toolkit

Welcome to Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention!

Creative Actions for Equality is Texas' statewide youth engagement project. These youth-centered creative arts action plans zero in on three core themes that promote an end to dating abuse:

Gender Equality • Healthy Relationships • Nonviolence

Support teens in your community as they participate in one or more creative action during the month of February (Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month) and beyond. Then spread the wealth by showcasing their work in your community and through the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Share the Love

TCFV will compile Creative Actions from across the state and highlight the transformational work that programs and schools are doing. Send art, video, writings, and other materials to Texas Council on Family Violence, by March 15, 2013 to participate in the online and public display we are making of prevention work in Texas.

Email: prevention@tcfv.org

Facebook: @Texas Council on Family Violence (Be sure to friend us as well!)

Snail mail: Texas Council on Family Violence, P.O. Box 161810, Austin, TX 78716

Facilitation of Creative Actions for Equality

We use the word facilitator for the people who create and coordinate learning environments. A facilitator designs spaces where all are respected, oppression is challenged, and young people are at the center. Violence prevention facilitators especially strive to live and model the values they aim to convey.

Begin your work by setting an intention, such as:

We want to create a world where no one would ever dream of hurting, humiliating, dominating, or abusing their child, a family member, or anyone they say they love. We believe we can do that.

After setting your intention, map out a timeline for doing one or more creative projects with the youth you work with (see sample calendar on the next page.) Invite them to participate and to help change culture in a positive direction.

Discover all the possibilities that Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month represents with your youth. Pass out copies of the CAfE Guide (one for each person, if possible — the guide can be downloaded at www.tcfv.org/pdf/cafeproject/cafe_toolkit.pdf)

Read it, look at the art and videos, and discuss their favorite action plan together. Support the youth to choose a plan they like, can do, and are excited by. Prepare the materials they will need (art supplies, cameras, space, time, snacks.)

Encourage the artistic process as it unfolds. Discuss ideas, feelings and efforts. Follow the group's lead, and praise their creations. Open conversation around the themes of gender equality, non-violence, or healthy relationships — but let them drive. Ask open-ended questions that invite a broad spectrum of responses in a tone free of judgment. Allow silence or noisy banter.

After a creative action plan has been completed, structure feedback. Invite each participant to share, describe their work, be applauded, and get positive responses.



Discuss the public sharing of the work. Let them know that each person can choose whether or not to share, and that it's totally voluntary and optional. If they want to, help plan a public showing, CAfE night, or display.

Encourage participants to contribute to TCFV's statewide online display of creative actions for equality. Discuss release forms, and obtain signed forms from youth/parents. A parental signature on the release form is necessary if student faces appear in a photo or video — otherwise, just the youth signature is enough. Youth can use pseudonyms or be anonymous if they choose.

Save the work that youth wish to share. Photograph, Xerox, scan, video record, or transcribe it. Return originals to the youth. Take pictures or videos and document the journey!

Youth could...

- Host an open mic for poetry and music about positive and negative relationships, and ask the audience to sign a pledge committing to never using abuse or violence in a relationship.
- Make an art or video display in a public place. Decide where their friends hang out most, then go there to discuss having a gallery of art/poems/video with the manager.
- Educate the public the old school way: make a lot of copies of posters and tack them up in bathroom stalls, on bulletin boards and telephone poles!
- Call or email their local newspaper or news station. Tell them teen dating abuse and violence are a hidden problem and ask the media what they are planning to do about it.
- Get permission from their school to put on a living sculptures theater piece about equality in relationships in the hallways during lunch.
- Post their artwork video to social media and tag everyone they know. Ask them to respond and pass it on.

Sample Calendar for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Last Week of January

- Introduce TDVAPM concepts
- Pass out Action Kit & Introduce Options
- Youth decide whether to work solo or in groups & choose an action plan

Materials:

Creative Action Kit for each youth

First Week of February

- Refresh goals and action plans
- Begin process of making art / writing / video
- Discuss how/where to display or share work at the end of the month (shelter, café, library, church, school, club, etc.) Set date. Facilitator arranges for display.

Materials:

Creative arts supplies

Second Week of February

- Make art / writing / video according to action plan
- Set date and make list of people to invite to see artwork: media, family, elected representatives and friends
- Make invitation (email or flyer)

Materials:

Creative arts supplies
List of local news media outlets

Third Week of February

- Make art/writing/video according to action plan
- Finish/revise/select work, prepare work for display
- Contact local press and request they do a story on TDVAPM and the group

Materials:

Creative arts supplies
Display methods

Last Week of February

- Document and save work and send to TCFV
- Share work via social media
- Display the artwork created in a public place
- Have a celebration & present the work to the public

Materials:

Display methods
Food, drink

First Week of March

- Celebrate the group's success
- Reflect on the month using art or writing
- Hand out wallet cards and posters on dating violence and prevention
- Make plan for artwork pick-up

Materials:

Creative arts supplies
Wallet cards and posters

“Bay Area Turning Point showcases artwork by teens residing in our shelter and participating in our prevention programs at schools. The artwork explores how they feel about the violence they or someone they know has endured at the hands of a dating partner. We use canvas, paint, buttons, and other materials. This February, we plan to display the artwork for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month at the University of Houston-Clearlake campus, and at local churches.”

- Heather Kerbow, BATP Prevention Coordinator, Webster, TX

Please Send Your Artwork!

We want to see your artwork, and share it with other youth. Please send photos, scans, videos, writing, and music our way to join in the CAfE project. We will make an online compilation of all the work, and a public display. (All submissions need to include a Release Form.)

Email us: prevention@tcfv.org

Facebook us: @Texas Council on Family Violence

Snail mail us: Texas Council on Family Violence, P.O. Box 161810, Austin, TX 78716



Youth Media Release Form

By signing below, I consent to participate in TCFV's CAfE project. I also acknowledge that the local prevention program in my area and that Texas Council on Family Violence may use my entry (video, writing, art, music, or other medium) for educational purposes, posters, fliers, promotional materials, youtube.com, vimeo.com, facebook.com, tcfv.org, and that it may be shown for presentations.

Title of Entry _____

Participant Name _____

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

If the submission is a photo or video that shows the face of someone under 18, a parental signature is needed as well.

Parent Name (if participant is under 18) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form with your entry by email (prevention@tcfv.org), Facebook message (@Texas Council on Family Violence), or by postal mail (Texas Council on Family Violence, P.O. Box 161810, Austin, TX 78716).

You can download a PDF version of this form at: www.tcfv.org/pdf/cafeproject/cafe_releaseform.pdf