

THE GEORGE LANGFORD STORY

ACTIVITIES: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Greed: Using our Model to Role Play Conflict Resolution

You are in the school yard and you want to play football. You notice that the group of kids with the football seem to have it all the time for recess. You run over and intercept the football feeling that it is your turn to play with it. An argument begins over who should get the football. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

You are on the school yard playing with the football. You got it first and feel it is yours to throw around with a friend. Another group comes along and steals the ball. An argument begins over who should play with the ball. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

It is 7:00 PM and you remember that Much Music is having an Intimate and Interactive show with Green Day tonight at 7:00. You really want to watch it. You run into the TV room and flick the TV to Much Music ignoring your sibling who is watching their favourite show Jeopardy. Your sibling gets angry and you begin to argue over who should get to watch the TV. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

It is 7:00 PM and you are stretched out in front of the TV ready to watch your favourite TV show Jeopardy. Suddenly, your sibling bounds into the TV room, grabs the remote, and flips to Much Music to watch some idiots named Green Day attack America. You are upset because you were watching TV first. An argument begins. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

Your father makes the most marvelous oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. The whole family is mad about them. The cookie jar is down to the last cookie. Despite the fact you have eaten many more cookies than other family members, you rush to the cookie jar for the last cookie. You are elbow deep in the jar fishing out the cookie when your sibling rushes in the kitchen to get a cookie. An argument begins. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

Your father makes the most marvelous oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. The whole family is mad about them. The cookie jar is down to the last cookie. On your way to your hockey game, you figure a cookie is just what you need for some quick energy. You go to the kitchen to find your sibling elbow deep in the cookie jar fishing out the last cookie. This angers you because this sibling is not called the "Cookie Monster" for nothing. You begin to argue. Using a concession, find a compromise.

You have planned a sleep over with a group of friends. You have your parent's permission to use the rec room for your sleep over. However, when you arrive to the rec room, you find the rec room occupied by your sibling and her (his) rock 'n roll band jamming. You are upset and tell your sibling that the rec room is reserved for you and your friends tonight. You begin to argue. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

You and a group of your friends have formed a rock 'n roll band and started to jam together. You have planned to use the rec room to jam in tonight. You get all the equipment set up and just begin to rock when your sibling arrives with her (his) friends for a sleep over. They want you out of the room. You begin to argue over the use of the rec room. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

You and your friends have planned a road trip to a Friday Night Dance at a local High School. You plan to take the city bus at 8:00 and catch the last bus home at 12:45. You and your friends are excited about the plans for the evening. However, your father is not and tells you you are not allowed to go to this dance. You begin to argue. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

You are the parent of a responsible, mature teenager who is in High School. However, lately, you are concerned with some of the friends in your teenager's group of friends. They dress in black, pierce their body randomly, smoke and speak to you only in sentence fragments. You feel uncomfortable about them. Your teenager asks to go to a dance at another High School with this group of friends. You put your foot down and say "No way!" You begin to argue. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

You are the parent of a responsible, mature teenager. Your teenager wants permission to go to a sleep over at a friends. However, you remember the last time there was a sleep over at this house, kids got in trouble for “sneaking” out of the house. You do not trust some of these kids who will be at the sleep over. You put your foot down and say “No way”. An argument begins. Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

You wish to go to a sleep over at a friend. However, the last sleep over at this friend's house had gone badly as kids got in trouble for “sneaking” out of the house in the middle of the night. You ask for permission to go to this friends but your Mother says “No way!” remembering what happened the last time. You begin to argue.Using a concession, find a compromise solution.

Teacher's Notes

- 1. These role plays have been a lot of fun and a good teaching tool. Do not hesitate to call “time outs” and get reaction from the audience, if the actors get stuck. This can create good discussion. Obviously, there is no right or wrong solution. The point is to get the students to understand conflict resolution requires a concession (giving up something) to find compromise. Of course, the point needs to be made in the game of life, we can't call time outs. We have to think on our feet. The audiences role is to identify the problem from each parties perspective , identify the concession from each party and to articulate the compromise.**
- 2. With the parent's role, I always discuss the idea that a parent's concern is their child's safety. Therefore, concessions from the teenager's perspective must be to alleviate safety concerns for the parent (phone call, a drive from parent, curfew).**