**Worksheet for Teachers: Respond to Bullying Effectively**

Watch video “*Misdirections in Bullying Prevention and Response”* in which Dr. Catherine Bradshaw talks about 5 common misconceptions about bullying.

[](http://www.stopbullying.gov/videos/2012/08/misdirections.html) http://www.stopbullying.gov/videos/2012/08/misdirections.htmlhttp://www.stopbullying.gov/videos/2012/08/misdirections.html

What are the misconceptions about how to handle bullying? Give an alternative response approach for each misdirection. As you listen, take note if you were unaware that these were fallacies.

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| **Misdirections** | **Alternative Solutions** |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |

Answers:

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| **Misdirections** | **Alternative Solutions** |
| 1. 1. **Zero Tolerance**” (a.k.a. “Three Strikes, You’re Out”) is NOT an effective disciplinary approach when dealing with bullying. It does not work because it’s unrealistic, and perceived as too harsh of a punishment that some will back down from mediating. Zero Tolerance is better for dealing with weapons and cases of extreme violence. | 1. Bullying should be dealt with in an all-inclusive approach. |
| 1. **Peer Mediation** as a conflict resolution approach is NOT effective for bullying. Because bullying is a form of abuse, face-to-face encounter between perpetrator(s) and victim risks empowering the perpetrator. The opposing sides are not on equal playing fields, so they cannot be expected to effectively resolve problems together. | 1. Deal with each party separately and privately. |
| 1. **Group Therapeutic Treatment** is not an effective approach to dealing with bullying. It will likely reinforce the bullying behavior as it brings to surface the power differential. | 1. Individual therapy is recommended. |
| 1. **Bullycide** is a term to avoid using. Bullying and suicide are separate issues, although often interrelated. The link between the two issues is overstated through the use of the hybrid term bullycide. It implies that the suicide was caused exclusively by the bullying. Suicide is often caused by a combined multitude of factors. | 1. Use the terms suicide and bullying as different issues. |
| 1. Simple, short-term oriented solutions are unlikely to reduce bullying. One-day workshops, or Awareness Day events are not a comprehensive enough approach to deal with bullying. | 1. Need comprehensive, on-going education based approaches, which involve hands-on activities. |