Activity III: Examining Peace Media

After reading "The Impact of New Media on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management," learners participate in the following activity.

This activity requires an Internet connection, computers for participants, and the ability to navigate the Web. The multimedia content (videos, audio clips, photographs, websites, etc.) in PeaceMedia is appropriate for high school students.

Description

Participants review the media resources available on http://peacemedia.usip.org and learn about conflicts and stakeholders. They select the most compelling examples of media, discuss their potential, and use a new media tool. In the process, learners gain an understanding of their role in utilizing new media for peace.

Learning Objectives

Learners will

- be able to describe how media and new media platforms can influence the promotion of peace and understanding of conflict;
- use new media to access and share information; and
- gain a deeper understanding of a specific conflict region or topic.

Time required: 90 minutes

Materials: computers with Internet connection, access to peacemedia.usip.org

Part I: Reviewing Media

Review media clips (10 minutes for instructions, 15 minutes for video review, 20 minutes for small group discussion and presentation preparation, 30 minutes for presentation and discussion as a large group)

Divide the class into groups of four or five.

1. Each learner will spend 10 to 20 minutes and select a video from peacemedia.usip. org that draws his or her interest.

2. Give the following directions.
   - Go to peacemedia.usip.org.
   - In the right side of the screen, go to "Sort by Region & Country." Choose from the selection in the drop-down list of regions. Click the "Sort by Region & Country" menu for a list of countries within the region.
   - Next, select "Sort by Topic" and pick a topic (e.g., "Youth").
   - Then, go to "Sort by Media Type" and select a type (e.g., "Documentary").
   - Examine different pieces of content within the selection.
   - Choose the most compelling entry and be prepared to address the following questions.
     - ° Which region or country did you choose? Why did you choose this conflict?
     - ° Which topic did you choose? Why did you choose this topic?
     - ° Which media type did you choose? Why did you choose this type?
     - ° Whose perspective does the media entry use?
     - ° What does it show?
     - ° What are the strengths of this entry?
     - ° What are the weaknesses of this entry?
     - ° How does this entry promote peace?
     - ° What did you learn from it?

3. In groups, each learner shares his or her top choice. Each small group chooses the best video from among the members and prepares a five minute presentation. The presentation must include answers to the questions above and a visual presentation of the media entry. In addition, each group must answer the following question:

– What can we do to promote peace with this media entry?

4. Each group has five minutes to make its case and share selected scenes from the entry.

5. The class votes to select the best media entry based on the content and the presentation.

Part II: Active Participation in New Media

Become a part of the PeaceMedia community (15 minutes)

Once the class has selected the best video and presentation, the instructor or group leader submits the results to the Institute.

1. Submit the link of the video chosen in Part I along with the accompanying description to pmc@usip.org. The classes that demonstrate active participation and learning, based on their descriptions, will be featured along with their choice of media on peacemedia.usip.org's home page. Each group's submission will also be listed on a separate page of the website. Participants all over the country will be able to refer back to this page to see what their peers are recommending and why.

– Please include the following information in the email.
   ° Web (URL) address of the entry from the address bar
   ° a paragraph containing the answer to the questions in Part I, numbers 2 and 3
   ° school name, city, state, instructor's name, grade, type of school (private, public, home, etc.)
   ° how you used this exercise (e.g., as part of the NPEC, extra credit assignment, etc.)
   ° how many people in your group or class participated in reviewing media entries on PeaceMedia?
   ° Use subject: NPEC PeaceMedia

Note: In the event that a learner wishes to participate without a class or a group, he/she should feel free to follow the guidelines above for individual submission.

2. At peacemedia.usip.org, learners can watch the top-ranked videos, rate them, leave comments, and contribute to the discussion threads.

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USIP provides the analysis, training and tools that prevent and end conflicts, promotes stability and professionalizes the field of peacebuilding.

For media inquiries, contact the office of Public Affairs and Communications, 202.429.4725

This activity is from the study guide, "The Impact of New Media on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management." The full study guide with background information, discussion questions, and more activities is available at www.usip.or/npec.