

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace...
What youth can do to build a world fit for
children"

Youth Conference
November 18, 2004
McMaster University
Hamilton Ontario

a
report of the proceedings

Open Space Technology Facilitation provided by:

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November 18, 2004

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Global Warming.....	5
Bullying.....	7
Nature of Hate and Racism.....	9
Developing Inner Peace.....	11
Friendship	11
Interacting with other people and non-violent communication.....	11
Our Environment, Our Safety, Our Future.....	14
Getting the news of Peace out to the world.....	16
Death Penalty / Capital Punishment.....	18
Harmony of People	20
Terrorism / War in Iraq / Middle East Conflict.....	22
Education and Freedom.....	26
Theft & Crime	30
Human Rights.....	32
Human Wrongs.....	34
Sweatshops.....	37
Child Labour/Sweatshops & Children's Rights.....	39
Child Poverty.....	43
Animal Cruelty.....	45
Abuse.....	48
Abuse (group 2).....	51
Missile Defense & Nuclear Weapons.....	53
Globalization	55
War / War Crimes.....	57
War	59

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Introduction

This is a report of the proceedings of the one day Youth Conference held on November 18th, 2004. This Conference was hosted by the Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace as part of a ten day Peace Education Conference at McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario.

The Youth Conference hosted 200 participants comprised of; 60 grade school students (grades 1-6), 120 high school student (grades 9-12) and 20 adults (comprised mainly of faculty/advisers and parents). All attendees participated as equals.

The schools were invited through the host's contacts and website additionally by direct mail to the schools within the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

To maximize the participation of youth and provide the best possible opportunity to express themselves, a meeting format called Open Space Technology was utilized. Open Space Technology is a unique methodology enabling individuals and groups to maximize their potential by capitalizing on their strengths and wisdom.

Process Description:

With the conference participants seated in three concentric circles and after the introduction and description of the Theme and meeting format, the participants were invited to post topics for discussion. They were given total freedom to post any topic they felt informed the theme of the day, that being ... "Creating a culture of Peace... What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

With great enthusiasm, 60 topics were posted. Those who had posted topics for discussion were invited to combine topics with others who had posted the same or similar topics. When that process was completed we were left with 20 discussion groups. As you will read in the reports, some groups although they combined the topics, chose to report separately on each of the topics their group discussed.

There were two discussion group sessions lasting 1.5 hours each. With ten topics per session, participants were free to chose the topic that most interested them.

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

As the discussion groups were comprised of those who had self selected to that topic, some groups had students from many grades, some solely high school students, and some solely grade school students. Participants were free to change groups at their discretion.

Each group prepared a report outlining the highlights of their discussion. A report template was handed out and the group was asked to present their report on flip chart paper.

After the discussion groups had taken place all reports were posted in the main hall. Participants were then asked to read the reports and invited to write their comments on post-it notes and affix those comments to that report.

The participants were also given two sticky dots; one blue to indicate 'interest', one red to indicate 'priority'. They were then asked to indicate their support for a topic by sticking the dot to that report.

This report is a direct transcription of the reports from the discussion groups and post-it comments, the content and wording is that of the participants. The comments from the post-it notes are indicated with each topic as is the total number of red or blue dots the report received.

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Global Warming

Participants: Laura D, Alex K

Key Points:

- pollution destroying ozone layer
- changes in weather patterns & loss of wildlife as a result

Next Steps:

- Cut back on Air Pollution by:
 - making factories environmentally friendly
 - keep drive clean testing
 - car pooling, bike riding, walking, etc
 - eliminate aerosol cans and containers
 - more bio-degradable products
 - take care of cow problem (we will explain)
 - more solar and battery power
 - produce more smart cars that seat more people & make planes and trains in the same fashion
 - plant more trees and allow more room for vegetation
 - try to cut back on the amount of people who smoke

Key Players:

- Green Earth
- smaller community groups and school participation
- the Kyoto Accord

Post-it Comments:

- Good Job!
- Great Job on this one
- it makes you really think about pollution
- I never knew that
- The Kyoto protocol is not law, therefore, all nations do not have to follow it. The UNFCCC is law, so therefore, if you were going to cite any laws that demand nations to stop global warming only th UNFCCC is applicable
- promote public transit ! (put more money in bus transit systems, GO train etc.)

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- good work
- good job
- pollution is a bad thing!
- a topic I would like to learn more about
- they should stop (smoking)
- they are not very nice!
- I like trees
- me too
- excellent, nothing better
- very good job
- awesome
- WOW
- wow, I never knew that, that's cool !
- walking , cycling and use of mass transit, GREAT ideas
- I never knew that
- global warming happens mostly in the US not really in Canada
- I want the world to be healthy

Dot Count:

Red: 3

Blue: 1

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Bullying

Participants: Kristie L, Madeline T, Abby T, Ben C, Lisa S, Sam B, Erin B, Michel S, Kyle, M, Tommy H.

Key Points:

We think bullying hurts. It is also a bad thing and is not right. Bullying effects everyone!. There are three types of bullying, physical, emotional and verbal, all are very bad. There should be consequences for bullys. Bullying bites and is not peaceful. Talking it over may help. We learned lots about bullys !

- bullying hurts
- bullying is a bad thing
- bullying is not right
- bullying effects everyone
- physical, emotional, verbal are three types of bullying
- there are consequences for bullying
- bullying bites
- bullying is not Peace-Full

Next Steps:

- Consequences:
 - physical bullying - suspension
 - verbal - 4 weeks detention
 - emotional - 8 weeks detention
 - talking it over with bully and victim
- other people should the same as us if not more. Example: bullying is awful, bullying hurts etc.

Post it Comments:

- bullying is bad
- bullying is an issue which must be stopped at a young age and nations such as the US should not be allowed to intimidate less powerful countries
- bullying should stop
- stop bullying !!!!!!!
- good job (inspiring!!)
- good!?

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- bullying bites!
- nice work
- awesome
- bullying is wrong
- bullying does bites
- sweet report
- nice report, it is true
- bullying is wrong MAN !!!
- I think this is cool
- B.E.E. Bullying Effects Everyone !!
- B.E.E. (BULLYING EFFECTS EVERYONE) Remember to put that on !
- neat
- Very Interesting, No Bulling
- Nothing Better
- I know how bullying feels
- Gandhi is an important role model for all of us

Dot Count:

Red: 4

Blue: 7

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Nature of Hate and Racism

Participants: (not provided)

Key Points:

- Racism -> discrimination against a group of people or individual based on nationality, colour, culture, and ethnicity
- Race -> a classification of people based on culture and appearance
- Racism is bad !!!

Next Steps:

- Ways to deal with racism:
 - Education ->
 - being exposed to different cultures and learning about them
 - getting rid of stereotypes/biases
 - Media ->
 - getting racial stereotypes out of movies /television and replacing it with positive portrayals of cultures
 - Teach people that there are no races; there is only the HUMAN RACE
 - Individual ->
 - stopping your friends/ family from having racist ideas or telling racist jokes
 - stopping racism in your own community
 - Social Structure ->
 - enforcing laws against racism- within the government

Post-it Comments:

- well done !!
- I agree because I have had racist remarks said to me
- good job
- sweet job!
- Let's accept all people. We're all part of God's family
- WOW, Awesome
- WOW!

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- If you teach a younger generation to hate then the cycle continues. People must stop teaching children to hate
- Well described... nice well done
- wow
- really!
- Blondes shouldn't be picked on... not all are dumb
- learning about it won't always change people's opinions
- Great Job!
- Racism + hatred is the most important issue to deal with because there are so many stereotypes and misconceptions out there towards people of a different race. Too many people today are ignorant and afraid of what they don't know. There is only one race, and that it the Human Race.
- Hate is at the core of all the horrible things we do to each other in the name of power and religion
- the government and authority can be racist too, biased
- passion to counter another (love) passion (hate). Dialogue is the way to go . Do not undermine the power of one. Start to influence one through dialogue and spread sphere of influence

Dot Count:

Red: 4

Blue: 7

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Developing Inner Peace

Friendship

Interacting with other people and non-violent communication

Participants: Courtney M, Summer B, Marie R, Patricia A, Kathy Z, Debjani P,
Nisha K, Farah S, Dario O, Tina P, Irina K, Teal B.

Key Points:

Developing Inner Peace

- spending quiet time
- think before you move
- turning off the media
- mind your manners
- think about others more than yourself
- treat others the way you wish to be treated
- head, hands an heart for GOD
- hands, feet and other objects to yourself (except for sharing)
- stand up for friends
- no one likes to be rejected

Friendship

- you can talk when you are in a fight
- through dialogue we understand each others
- cooling off period
- call in someone neutral
- love
- slowdown
- quiet time, becoming one with self, meditation
- pray
- George W. Bush
- Iraq
- Understanding terrorism
- A friend is someone you trust and care about

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Key Players:

- who are the biggest bullies?
 - George Bush
 - Adults
 - Children
 - Everybody

Post-it Comments:

- These principles can be applied on a world scale
- meditating
- great job
- It's Important !!
- Nice!
- WOW
- Beautiful
- Pretty
- Cool !!
- Nice
- Good
- Good Job! Neat !
- Super. Bush is not a bully
- love the spelling
- This is sweet man !!!
- Super work !!
- Good Job!
- Awesome
- wowy !!
- Peace has to begin with the young. If peace were cultivated early in life, there would be fewer wars !
- So important for everyone, it would help solve so many problems from the inside out
- peace in the family, community and in the world begins with peace with oneself

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- if everyone developed inner peace the rest of the topics would become 'non-issues'
- I believe this is vital for creating a culture of peace, a world fit for children

Dot Count:

Red: 7

Blue: 2

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Our Environment, Our Safety, Our Future.

Participants: Chris, Hayden, Corey, Matt, Matthew, Michael, Megan

Key Points:

- don't pollute (air)
- don't drink and drive
- don't smoke and eat healthy
- purchase smoke alarms
- don't litter

Next Steps:

- car pools, electric powered cars, take buses and GO trains to work
- let someone else drive after drinking
- laws against smoking, follow the Canadian food guide
- purchase smoke alarms
- make more products that are recyclable

Key Players:

- car companies, people and large industries
- people, family and friends
- the government, health inspectors
- government, large companies who make recyclable items such as all paper, plastic, Styrofoam ... products

Post-it Comments:

- Yes !!
- good Job
- This Rocks !!
- Good Work
- Yeah !!
- Good Job
- nice
- Awesome

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- that's hot!
- how awful !!
- take care of creation
- cool
- I love it
- very true about this topic
- very nice, congratulations
- that's awesome ! Oh Ya !!
- safety is always important and people should learn the law on different safety issues

Dot Count:

Red: 7

Blue: 2

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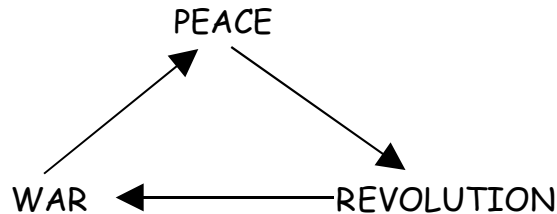
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November 18, 2004

Topic: Getting the news of Peace out to the world

Participants: Matt P, Meaghan T, Ashley M, Danny V, Steph F, Colin L,
Jessica S, Meaghan S, Marcus C, Theresa P, Ashley M, Patti H,

Key Points:



- from children's groups to global unrest
- conflict is based on the economy (usually)
- there will never be peace (due to communism's failure)
- but if we spread the word of peace, if we make songs and poems and books
- VOTE !
- follow the golden rule (do unto your neighbour as you want to be done to your self)

Next Steps:

- write a song
- talk
- books / text books
- groups

- listen to others
- greater participation from everyone
- acknowledge
- no sexists
- greater representation of women in the decision-making process

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Key Players:

- Peaceful Schools International
- Amnesty International
- UNICEF
- UN sanctions

Post-it Comments:

- conflict in the form of violence is NOT inevitable. Read the Seville Statement
- human beings are naturally aggressive so until we can be perfect human beings there shall always be conflict
- interesting!
- HOT
- wow
- cool
- cool !!
- interesting, Good Work!
- Good!
- Write a little bit neater, but it is still cool
- not very interesting
- very interesting, I never knew that

Dot Count:

Red: 0

Blue: 0

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Death Penalty / Capital Punishment

Participants: (not provided)

Key Points:

Capital Punishment

- Fatal Punishment
- Death
- Eye for an Eye
- Physical Harm

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• justice for victims family• prevents from killing again• saves money• discourages other criminals from killing• reduce violence in jail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pain for family of criminal• eye for an eye (wrong message)• hypocritical (punishment of death from a death)• being killed for innocence• immoral• don't learn from mistakes

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Corporal Punishment

- spanking a child
- physical abuse
- discipline

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaches child a lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotes violence• Breaks trust between parent and child
Alternatives to corporal punishment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talk about it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give reasons why it is wrong

Post-it Comments:

- when you get a chance, rent the video "Dead man Waking" and watch it.
- encouraging kids with corporal punishment teaches them to be violent
- people who commit extreme crimes should not have the same rights as everyone (i.e. The right to vote) However, they are still people who make mistakes. The death penalty is hypocritical
- good job... I'm a fan
- cool... good job!
- cool
- good work
- nice, it is true to the words
- cool

Dot Count:

Red: 3

Blue: 1

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Harmony of People

Participants: Cindy G, Hunter M, Meghan B, Lorenzo C, Francisco S, Alex S, Tina P, Irina K, Kathy Z.

Key Points:

- 3 togetherness
- 8 equity
- 6 kindness
- 5 happiness
- 9 non-violence
- 4 non-demanding
- 9 no fighting
- 7 friendship
- 10 no discrimination

Next Steps:

- 10 breaking cultural/religious barriers by creating awareness
- 9 compromise
- 8 acceptance, common interest
- 7 GOD's family
- 6 sharing love
- 5 sharing world's resources
- 4 understanding each other
- 3 community trust

Key Players:

- 6.5 billion people
- consider world leaders
- U.N.

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Post-it Comments:

- wow
- wow :)
- NO
- 2 cool 4 school
- pretty good
- rock on
- cool
- awesome
- great job
- I think it was a good topic
- you must teach people about other cultures before there can be any sort of harmony
- very idealistic but it can happen if enough are willing
- Christianity is not the only thing to turn to for harmony, messages from Judaism can help
- people should work together in harmony, not fighting with other people, having fun
- this is something we should definitely do
- Cindy, Meghan, Hunter and Alex were super student leaders, keep up the good work!

Dot Count:

Red: 4

Blue: 1

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Terrorism / War in Iraq / Middle East Conflict

(discussed together, reported separately by topic)

Participants: (not provided)

Key Points:

Terrorism

- US using fear
- the word terrorism is vague
- difference between Muslims & Terrorists
- US let guard down - but not now
- no good comes of fear
- US use terrorism for pity
- lots of guns in US
- Bush is not being truthful & there is no evidence for weapons
- if not sure, don't go to war
- UN not being able to search some areas in Iraq
- fighting against people who have separate interests
- Important to have strong economy
- Morals vs. Money
- America has more weapons than anyone else
- America can't go without UN
- UN needs to be fixed
- Countries are realizing if one goes down then they all will
- Look out for world interests not just each countries own
- Answer may be UN
- Need to have another world power to balance the US
- America's form of government doesn't work everywhere
- Different government works in different areas
- The US is a dictator

Post it Comments:

- cool
- I think it is bad

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- the favourites
- I agree
- very important
- US is not a dictator
- this is something we should definitely do

Dot Count:

Red: 0

Blue: 4

Key Points:

War in Iraq

- Split Iraq into 3 countries for the 3 different groups
- but no multiculturalism
- need more dialogue to understand other people
- understand each other
- acceptance
- knowledge is Peace, so set up an education system
- America wrong and other things could have been done
- America has to stay to guide the new Iraqi government
- US be stronger , less oppressive, more helper
- bring in UN not just US
- Pres. Had some info at time of attack on weapons
- How is the US helping Iraq ?
- No reason to go to Iraq - Bush lied to people and Bush is there for oil - Americans don't know why they are there
- America shouldn't be in Iraq
- want what the Iraqis want
- Democracy is fragile
- there is documentation that there were no weapons
- Cheney has no interest in Haliburton
- For government in Iraq bring in the UN but the US system wouldn't work
- Canada no troops but other foreign aid

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- America has been a big help to other countries

Post it Comments:

- it will not
- this group really seems like it means business. It was a fully participatory group from what I observed
- good job
- cool
- why?
- Good work
- I am very impressed with your insight
- weeeeeee !!!!!
- beautiful
- when will it be over?
- Kick me
- NOT
- very good, well done

Dot Count:

Red: 1

Blue: 1

Key Points:

Middle East Conflict

- Since Arafat passed away don't know what will happen
- understanding
- More window of Peace Arafat always hesitant to make peace
- Israel has made concessions but Palestine has not
- both sides need to compromise
- both sides have been wrong
- need to talk not kill people
- need to ask why are the terrorist attacks happening?
- Sharon needs to become moderate
- learn from the past
- Mediar force should be there not troops someone to see both points of view
- next 4 years will be bad, need to take action (a lot of people)

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- every little bit helps so younger people have to get involved as they are more moderate
- religion
- To create 1 state with both living together in perfect world
- Need to educate the younger generation on both sides so they could live together
- 7 Days war=Book

Post it Comments:

- this is important... very nice
- good work
- well done !!
- George Bush sucks !!
- Bush is handling this well
- Bush = stupid
- good - great
- well done
- good
- good job
- is there Peace without Freedom? ... Is there Freedom without Peace ?
- Most people in the middle East are moderates so they should have leaders who support moderation & compromise in search of Peace
- The Middle East threatens the entire world, but if action is taken it must be through an allied force, i.e. more than one country

Dot Count:

Red: 1

Blue: 5

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Education and Freedom

Participants: Marilyn I-D, Alex S, Hunter M, Sam B, Tommy H, Andrew W, Cindy G, Chris S, Erin B, Corey D, Jessica M, Meghan B, Karina T, Michael S.

Key Points:

Freedom	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• is the right to vote• right to education• right to have no fear• right to speech• right to make your own decisions• right to doing whatever you want without persecution• right to express themselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• everyone should have the opportunity to learn• learn whatever you want• way to meet new people• education is the key to the future• nobody should not be given the opportunity to education due to age, race, sex, culture, etc.• education is the right of life• if you aren't learning, you are not learning• education is what leads you to your dreams

Next Steps:

- make peace and compromises to keep war from happening for school
- sharing power and money can solve war and money problems for school
- government spends more money on education
- stop discrimination of women and let them go to school
- men and women should have equal rights in education

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

What and where do we go from here?

- Sponsors
- donations
- advocate
- education -> awareness -> making the world a better place
- education -> freedom

Why do we need freedom?

- We need freedom to make the world fair and equal
- => Freedom and Education both lead to following dreams!
- => We try to make the world a better place, but keep rules for safety

Who can Help Give Education and Freedom		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tutors• government• community• teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• parent• alders• peer + friends• help others by creating clubs/organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• help friends and classmates• YOU ! Can make a difference !

What does education and freedom mean to you?

Michael: being able to fulfill your dreams

Woody: the right to express your opinion

Cindy: the freedom to be anything you want to be

Karina: Freedom is to play with anyone you want and not get in trouble

Erin: being able to learn what you want

Sam: Being able to go to school anywhere

Meghan: being able to speak your mind

Chris: having the right to express your feelings

Corey: I think freedom means that you don't have to share but it would be nice if you could

Jessica: learning is an inspiration to follow your dreams and education in schooling is the tool to get there. Freedom is the wind that opens all doors to success

Carmen: choice

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Post it Comments:

- we spend so much more on the military than on education maybe a way to find it would be to rethink where government money is spent
- the world would be more peaceful if people were more educated
- \$7 billion -> cost to educate the world's children for a year. \$3.3 Trillion is US budget for war in Iraq
- very interesting ... I think its a good topic and very interesting I have nothing to add... its perfect !
- freedom is something everyone desires but if we all decided to do whatever we wanted, there would be anarchy. So we need to practice self-governance, a Gandhian concept, to make freedom attainable by all. Well done work here !!
- well described
- interesting, well written, very very neat !
- good concept
- good work
- very organized presentation
- more Freedom !!
- education is what everyone needs
- people should not be afraid of being different
- this is important to know
- everyone should be aware of this -> freedom and Education should be available for everyone -> because education is for sharing to help others
- education is always important so everyone should be able to learn no matter where they live or what culture they have
- people should do things together
- Education is a right of all people. Humans cannot be competitive in the global market without an education. A public education system should not brainwash children. Civics class is propaganda
- we should be thankful for what we have !!
- Education: this is what makes a human being complete
- everyone no matter what race, gender, religion, or age should have the right to expand their minds through education
- this group knew what to do ! GOOD JOB!
- NEAT
- neat
- very neat

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- good job
- good job
- good job
- good job !!
- good job
- a great job!
- great work
- cool
- cool awesome
- awesome
- awesome
- awesome man !
- nice
- neat
- neat
- neat !, neat !, neat !, neat !, neat !, neat !, neat !, WAY NEAT
- VERY VERY VERY VERY NEAT !!
- very neat, good job
- very neat
- it is neat
- Hi Alex !!! How is it going?
- WE DID GREAT !

Dot Count:

Red: 14

Blue: 13

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Theft & Crime

Participants: Sarah R, Matt D

Key Points:

- Stealing is bad and when you steal it's a crime
- Description of crime
 - Someone that stole something
 - Someone that steals something and they don't get caught
 - Someone who breaks the law
 - Someone who steals something and they get out of it
- Sometimes some people lose their millions
- Sometimes people get framed and go to jail for maybe ten years
- People you can't trust that steal your stuff



Next steps:

- Greater punishment for people who commit crimes
- Open more jails
- Get a counsellor
- If you witness vandalism, tell people what you know, hear, or see
- Make posters

Post-it Comments:

- what posses people to steal? -> society? -> culture?
- stealing satellite signals is wrong, theft is theft
- this is good
- theft should be stopped. The law should be enforced.
- wow
- good work
- cool
- try to be a little neater
- good job
- good job
- nice job

Canadian Centres for Teaching Peace

"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- true, true
- don't steal man !!

Dot Count:

Red: 0

Blue: 2

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"Creating a culture of Peace..."

What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Human Rights

Participants: Mark B, Ben C, Matthew T, Micheal G, Marcella, David

Key Points:

- right to:
 - water
 - food
 - religion
 - security
 - family
 - marriage
 - peace
 - education
 - a day of rest
 - speech
 - refuse unsafe work
 - live
 - mobility
 - community
- Things that enhance our rights:
 - government (some aspects... most)
 - NGOs
 - over-controlling governments (communist etc...)
 - enforcing laws to stop us from our freedoms!
 - The police enhances us to our freedoms!
- We have allot of rights like the right to water, the right to food, the right to religion. The things that prevent us from our rights are the rights of the police and the government!
- Things that hinder our rights:
 - militarism
 - terrorism

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Post-it Comments:

- the world needs to develop mechanism that will ensure these rights are met. We need to give the UN real teeth to develop & enforce human rights globally
- UNHCR is customary law so if countries break it they can be tried by the ICJ
- Human rights also include the right to self-determination. George Bush violated that through unilateral action. Human rights must be protected by the United Nations
- (over controlling governments) or fascist leader (i.e. Bush)
- Bush is not a fascist
- hard work
- nice
- hot
- good job
- wow
- hot
- nice
- good work!
- nice job
- awesome
- you're absolutely right !!

Dot Count:

Red: 2

Blue: 5

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Human Wrongs

Participants: Justin K, Laura M, Jen L, Steph K, Krista R, Amanda G

Key Points:

• Militarism

- One country showing military power over other countries
- military reigns power over own people; e.g. dictatorship, other controlling forces
- takes away basic human rights from people e.g. Speak out against the government=punishment

• Globalization

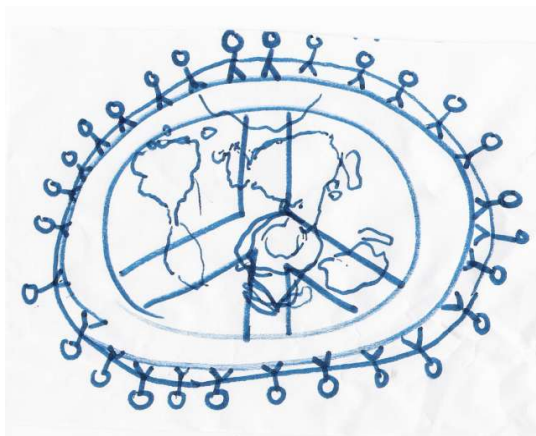
- Capitalization e.g corporation having power over government; Coca Cola, Niki, GAP
- Privatization of water, food, oil, and health services
- Materialism: greater need for material items e.g. North America

• Nationalism

- believing one country is better than another and demonstrates this by invasion

• Colonialism

- overtake of a government by another e.g. Dominican Republic, India



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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Next Steps:

Ways to right human wrongs

• Militarism

- Sanctions against countries antagonizing other countries that are imposed equally on all countries

• Globalization

- change international policy on corporations
 - restriction on power inflicting on others rights
 - FREE public services. Healthcare, sanitation, land
 - nationalize public resources

• Nationalism

- Equality and cultural understanding

• Colonization

- create and enforce practical consequences on countries that break international law

Key Players:

- United Nations

Post-it Comments:

- The UNDHR is customary law so if countries break it they can be charged in the ICJ
- we must understand the wrongs to make rights
- say no to human wrongs
- Capitalism is good. Militarism is unfortunately necessary
- cool , yes COOL
- cool
- cool
- very good
- good job
- a little bit neater plz ! :(

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- I think it's pretty ! :)

Dot Count:

Red: 4

Blue: 0

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Sweatshops

Participants: David, Jordan, Woody, Cat, Alex, Cass, Jess Jess, Katie, Marcella, Cynthia, Tory

Key Points:

- poor working conditions
- long hours
- no benefits
- low education
- low pay
- violent acts
- western perception of sweatshops
- no standards
- violation of :
 - child rights
 - women's rights
 - human rights in general
- security/protection
- equal pay
- proper vacation + sick days
- unjust conditions
- lack of training
- poor health conditions

Next Steps:

- raising awareness - stop ignorance
- starting a regulation board
- through high schools contact with people from sweatshops to hear personal stories to raise awareness
- true coverage in the media on what actually goes on, because the media manipulates what is released to the public
- everything is interconnected; Corporation -> Media -> People... It has to start with us :)
- Boycotting products -> if people knew what they were buying - maybe they'd think twice

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November 18, 2004

Key Players:

- Social Justice Groups
- M.P.s
- School Officials (Uniforms)
- independent medias
- Individuals

Post-it Comments:

- Major corporations should be exposed when they use sweatshops as it is a violation of international customary law
- it really makes you think about how evil the world can be
- hey!... let's name a few that use sweatshops: Coke, Adidas, Old Navy, Roots, shall I go on?
- I never knew that it was that bad!
- I never really understood "sweat shops" (the definition) Now I do.
- The issue has been around for awhile - Let's not get complacent and think we can never change!
- Please don't shop at WalMart, support your local shops downtown
- Good issue to bring light to
- he/she's got a point
- good Job... sweatshops suck a lot
- whoa, that's pretty bad
- nice
- well done, good work
- well done :)... good work
- Great Job !!
- great job
- great job
- great job, well explained
- good job, I like it
- awesome work
- very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very Interesting

Dot Count:

Red: 8

Blue: 8

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Child Labour/Sweatshops & Children's Rights

(discussed together, reported separately)

Participants: Brianne F, Steven D, Mikaela P, Sam F-N, J.P.S, Nita S, Sammy F, Adalore g, Helen T, Michaela B, Tanya P, Nikki C, Madeline A, Reilly O'B, Felisha D, Emily P, Kristina B, Justine H, Christopher C, Desirie V, Nicole R, Farah S, Nisha K, Victoria S, Adam P.

Child Labour/Sweatshops

Key Points:

- children are **forced** into doing work (little \$)
- harsh and dangerous environments
- parents are not always there for children
- Places: Thailand, Taiwan, India, Bangladesh... making carpets, clothing, toys, accessories...
- 2 types: Factories (bad materials) & Brick (carrying)
- why?" they have to: for food, shelter, support families
- Problems: **School**, long hours, poor health, hygiene, dangerous workplaces, taken away from family
- kids should **not** work at such a young age

Next Steps:

- suggestions:
 - 8 years +
 - safe and proper conditions
 - child unions
 - children's rights
 - sponsoring a child
- How to achieve:
 - pressure government leaders
 - TV commercials
 - demonstrations; strikes; protests

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Post-it Comments:

- Giving Rights + Respect to the Child, is one of the most important things today we MUST protect. Because when someone is willing to harm an innocent child, they'll harm anyone.
- You should have included Mexico
- let children play. They'll be adults soon enough, then they can work
- excellent topic, well done
- wow !, awesome work
- oh boy
- great work
- cool
- cool
- right on
- wonderful job

Dot Count:

Red: 15

Blue: 8

Children's Rights

Key Points:

- standards i.e. Drink certain amount of water
- opportunity to education
- right to speak
- safety
- right choose
- shelter, clothing, food
- right to protection i.e. From crime, poverty
- United nations Conventions of Child Rights -> U.S.A. -> Somalia
- when a country signs a convention, they have to agree with them and follow them... almost ALL countries DO NOT follow them !!

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- **Been Violated:**
 - child labour
 - freedom of speech
 - freedom of religion
 - Racism
 - freedom of fun!
 - Poverty (food, shelter, clothing)
 - privacy, safety
 - right to express themselves
 - sexual exploitation
 - child soldiers
 - right to clean water (hygiene)
 - right to an education
 - family

Next Steps:

- How to deal with these issues:
 - awareness (educating) -> media (famous people) -> guest speakers
 - motivating people
 - magazines, newspapers, word of mouth, petitions
 - groups
 - corporate funding -> charity events

Post-it Comments:

- children are the future, they have the right to all the necessities they need to live a fulfilling and normal life
- find ways to help the societies where children are forced to work if their families are to survive
- it is very important for us to have a say in things
- extremely well thought out !! well done !!
- very thorough
- Damn Dirty Apes
- that is so true!
- well written :)

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- great job
- awesome :)
- cool Dude
- cool
- cool
- cool
- Great !
- Grrrrrr
- Good Job... very specific
- nice work!
- Great !!
- wow, amazing!

Dot Count:

Red: 8

Blue: 1

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Child Poverty

Participants: Laura, Lisa, Madeline, Angelina, Kristie, Brittney, Megan, Sarah, Michaela, Abigail, Bob

Key Points:

- 20% of people live in Canada live in poverty
- if you can't eat, you can't learn
- self-esteem
- you can be bullied
- other places in the world children starve to death
- uniforms could be an issue in poverty

Next Steps:

- food banks / shoe boxes
- kids at school could raise money for kids in poverty in Canada and around the world
- being Secret Santas
- to make donations to kids in poverty
- UNICEF !!
- save things when Spring cleaning
- subsidize; houses, food, clothes
- think of others too

Key Players:

- Hamilton Food Share
- Save the Children
- Child sponsorships

Post-it Comments:

- We should spend more time thinking of others and not ourselves
- children are the future of the world and should be treated as such. Poverty breeds criminals
- poverty not only exists in third world countries
- set up an educational program so that people will be able to find jobs

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November 18, 2004

- IDEA; spend less money on war and more on poverty
- poverty exists allot in Canada just well hidden. People need to learn more about it
- There should be funding to help these kids
- Poor kids should be better treated
- Don't Bully the ones in poverty
- Cool! Lot of interesting facts!
- It's really important to know!
- Bush is helping this
- Blame Bush
- Great Work
- I think it is great
- Great idea :)
- good job
- love it!
- Sweet!
- You Rule!
- Very True, Great Job!
- Nice Job
- So Cool! Great! Good! Love it!

Dot Count:

Red: 3

Blue: 8

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Animal Cruelty

Participants: (not provided)

Key Points:

(Our report is mostly about saving animals)

- no hunting for a sport
- no animal testing
- do not destroy nature
- kill only if you need it for meat
- no black market selling

Next Steps:

- donate money
- do not abandon animals
- take good care of an animal
- feed your pets when needed
- do not go on a vacation and leave the animal at home with no food
- keep animals healthy

Key Players:

- government
- vets
- S.P.C.A.
- animal shelters
- makeup factories/designers
- pet police
- animal clinic
- police/cops
- normal people
- animal foster parents
- university/college
- crocodile hunter

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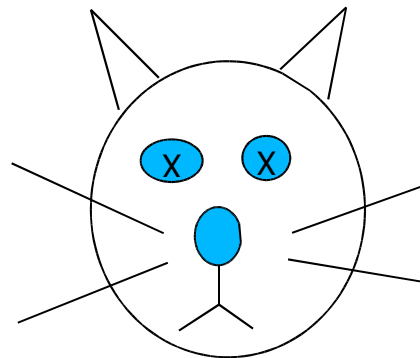
What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- animal daycare
- leash/collar makers

Post-it Comments:

- animal cruelty should be stopped and hunters also should be stopped. Hunters hunt just for a sport
- how can you find a better way to treat humans???
- however, how can find medicines? Testing on humans?
- I think we should stop animal testing
- animals need the same respect as humans
- animals are the best. Nice Job!!
- don't be mean to animals Man!
- Oh, that's really bad ! (how cruel)
- what did animals do to them !?!
- I think we should put humans before animals ?
- Animals are good to think of
- good job! , animals are usually the last to be thought of
- True, very true!
- Yes, animals have lives they don't need to die for us!
- Animals are living creatures, if you hurt them it's like hurting humans
- Animals are our friends
- Animals are good, don't hurt them!
- Don't be mean to animals
- Animals are part of God's creation too
- don't be mean to animals
- hasta la vista babe
- how cruel !!
- how cruel, nice work!
- I like that, this is cool!
- Good work, the picture is good
- good!
- Cool
- don't be mean!!
- how could humans do that
- awesome



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November 18, 2004

- very good!
- Nice
- good job
- good job
- cool

Dot Count:

Red: 7

Blue: 8

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Abuse

Participants: Brittney, Mark, Patricia, Alves, Michelle, Victoria, Corey,
Austin, Justin

Key Points:

- there are many forms of abuse like;
 - verbal abuse,
 - physical abuse
 - emotional abuse
 - child abuse
 - animal abuse
 - substance abuse
- definition: repeated action that intentionally hurts someone else
- it hurts other people and abuse is learned from the people who are doing it
 - making fun of someone
 - calling names,swearing,yelling
 - pushing, shoving, punching, kicking
- people who are abused can do things like:
 - taking their anger out on other people,
 - becoming isolated and quiet
 - if its parents who are abusing they might abuse their children
- when people see abuse happening they react by;
 - ignoring it
 - joining in
 - telling someone
 - try and help
- no one deserves to be abused
- people may abuse other people because their parents do it or they have problems at home
- they attack others before they attack them
- we have to stop abuse by teaching people that its wrong
- to have more shelters available for people who need help so they can go for help
- to teach young kids that abuse is wrong before they might do it
- alcohol can start or make abuse worse
- thing like Kids Help Phone could help the abused and abusers

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November 18, 2004

Post-it Comments:

- Abuse has many emotional repercussions on people so it could turn a nice person into a murderer and then they get away with murder
- The abuse issue relates to ALL aspects of our life and existence from violence against each other to violence against our world.
- What aspects of our society breed abusive behaviour ? How can we fix it?
- What can we do to stop it?
- Abuse is bad
- Abuse is really bad
- Well Done ! Excellent Topic !
- Well Done, WOW
- No 1
- Good Job
- You guys did awesome
- great job of explaining
- yuk!
- No Abuse Man!
- Good
- good job
- good job
- good job
- good job
- Good job
- GOOD GOOD GOOD !!!
- I like the light above your poster
- I agree
- Great Job !
- Great work!
- awesome job
- awesome work!!
- sweet
- YES!
- Cool dude
- well done ! WOW!
- Sucks!
- Grrr!

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- *Good work !*
- *The Best!*
- *Whoa, this is a Good Job !!*

Dot Count:

Red: 5

Blue: 6

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Abuse
(group 2)

Participants: Angelina, Sarah, Karina, Robert, Andrew, Laura

Key Points:

- fighting (people against people)
- name calling
- cruelty towards living things
- it hurts people
- types of abuse:
 - verbal,
 - animal,
 - emotional,
 - physical,
 - child,
 - substance(drugs, alcohol)
 - sexual
- we have all experienced some sort of abuse. When we do it we feel guilty and dumb for making someone feel that way !!
- it makes us feel depressed and unsafe because we know other people experience much worse
- there should be something to stop it
- violence is an evil cycle
- we don't know who is being abused because they hide their feelings
- peer pressure (substance, verbal, etc)

Next Steps:

- **what can we do?**
 - Help fund shelters for people to escape to (women's shelter, kids help line etc)
 - stopping abuse at the source
 - not bullying or making fun of people
 - it's your choice to abuse someone, but not the other way around so don't abuse anyone else

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- tell people to stop
- be aware, understand your actions have consequences
- think before you do
- being educated (being taught peace tactics in school)
- setting examples for little children so they learn to be peaceful
- you feel fear/ scared, therefore you can become a bystander
- stop encouraging violence (cheering on the bully, good guy, bad guy television shows teaching us that physical abuse is admired)
- the media, home-life, school-life, everything is based on violence!
- Abuse becomes a way to achieve attention!
- Abuse begins and will end with us !!

Post-it Comments:

- we have to be totally for life
- well explained
- fabulous
- awesome
- great job!
- Great work to me
- bad words
- it is the best one
- good
- good job :)

Dot Count:

Red: 3

Blue: 0

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Missile Defense & Nuclear Weapons

Participants: Ben, Cass, Chris, Vicky, Michelle, Jess, Marika

Key Points:

- What is it? - Defense against intercontinental missiles?
- Detect and shoot down nuclear missiles before they hit their targets (supposed to)
- Russia says it has missiles that can ignore the defense system and China said they will increase their arsenal if they go through with this (arms race)
- US says. Main focus - protect American investments & interests rather than people
- The Canadian government supports the system but majority of Canadians oppose it
- would break all of International Treaties
- Missile Defense system is the colonization of space
- Violation of human rights;
 - right to real security
 - right to life
 - right to privacy
 - right to international order
 - right to environmental risks

Next Steps:

- publicly protest
- attend info meetings
- phone & mail MPs
- raise awareness
- promote peace by attending the Gandhi Peace Festival and ALL Peace festivals

Key Players:

- Bush administration
- Canadian Government
- PEOPLE

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- all western governments
- United nations
- Third World Countries
- World Bank
- NASA
- Military Industrial Complex

Go to: www.ceasefire.ca

Post-it Comments:

- This is the final frontier - if we weaponize space we can't go back
- if we don't take a stand as Canadians we are in huge trouble
- missile defense and nuclear warfare are issues that must be dealt with immediately. Already too many dangerous leaders (Bush included) have the power to destroy the WORLD! As a world we must reduce force
- This is an irreversible and hugely destructive Program to continue with. Space is not meant to be weaponized, No country should have that much power and thus control the planet like the U.S. Space is for Peace lets work on the trouble here before moving into Space
- will missile defense be safe or effective. It is also making everything a threat that uses satellites
- NO to missile defense. NO to nuclear weapons MORE compassion, more kindness, more gentleness
- the idea that the cost of one USA missile could feed all of Americas
- sometimes you have no other choice but to use this technology
- Missile Defense is not good for our earth and can kill someone instantly so we should stop using nuclear weapons
- True date, 2 weeks !
- Awesome
- explosion
- amazing, simply amazing job
- wow
- cool!

Dot Count:

Red: 15

Blue: 10

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: Globalization

Participants: (not provided)

Key Points:

- www.killercoke.org
- stopkillercoke@aol.ca
- Economic Imperialism
- Coca Cola- Columbia
 - Coca Cola is hiring the para military to assassinate union workers, therefore, they don't have to pay them as much as they would if they were in the unions
 - they are also polluting the water in India with their plants
- Water Privatization - Bolivia
 - Bechtel -> A contract existed between the government and Bechtel that meant the water supply and production would be completely controlled by the company.
 - The people could only buy water from Bechtel - no other water source

Next Steps:

- Spread the Information
- teach others about the issues and problem
- Boycott the product (Coca Cola)
- refuse to drink/buy the product, therefore the company loses more money, the more people that protest
- supporting local industries

Post-it Comments:

- The groups responsible for this discussion is really going places. Great team effort both young and old
- Major corporations must be held accountable under the law as the breaking customary law in many aspects of globalization and people must be more careful with natural resources
- Stop it! Wonderful job!
- Cool job!

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- Best so far
- wonderful
- you did good
- nice job
- I now prefer Pepsi
- Yeah!
- Good Work
- wow !!
- great !
- Great job
- MINE, NO
- Don't support Coke and;
 - Dasani
 - Sprite
 - Minute Maid
 - Fruitopia
 - Diet Coke
- good job
- linxflare@hotmail.com For More Info !

Dot Count:

Red: 24

Blue: 18

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

Topic: War / War Crimes

Participants: Tory, Olivia, Kate, Anne, Sarah, Kristyne, Lisa, Arooj, Eva, Roshni, Morgan, Eric, Nicky, Daniel, Jamil

Key Points:

- Secret trials
- Security certificates
- War in Iraq
- Bush and his close connection with Saddam Husein
- US stopped focusing on Oshama Bin Laden
- Everything is affected by war and it just makes everything worse
- Treatment of P.O.W. In Iraq
- Bush trash 45 minutes

Next Steps:

- UN needs more credibility
- Training soldiers on international law

Post-it Comments:

- well done
- you are right, we have to say 'no' to crime and war
- good work
- good morning
- I strongly agree ! Good Work!!
- Very Neat
- well done
- very well done
- wars are bad!
- Everyone is effected by war. Danger to everyone
- war is bad and I wish Peace would be with everybody
- war better stop
- stop war
- some wars are necessary for peace
- wars should be stopped... we shouldn't fight, it's also called bullying

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- War does not condone peace. It is hypocritical to think so. George Bush is a terrorist
- Bush's only connection with Husein is that during the Iran-Iraq war the US gave Iraq weapons
- do you think war will stop? p.s. Well Done!
- If some important US people get their act together
- The UN needs it's own army
- The Un does have a united force called NATO
- I think it is well done
- Think it is well done and very good
- good key points and thinking

Dot Count:

Red: 5

Blue: 3

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

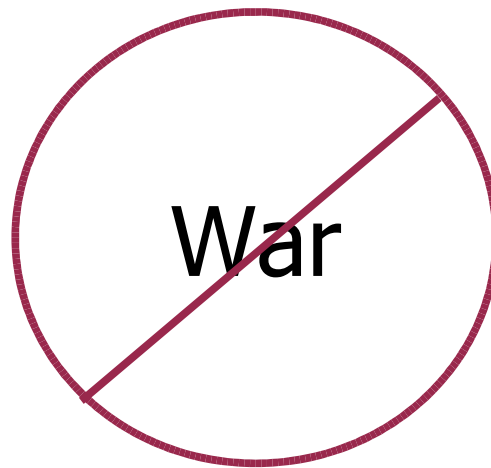
November 18, 2004

Topic: War

Participants: Janelle P, Presley B, Simone M. Kyle Mc, Michael S, Corey M, Austin R, Justin T

Key Points:

- we think these things can cause war:
 - fighting verbally
 - fighting over the world
 - weapons
 - violence
 - people disagreeing
 - races
 - lying
 - hate
 - money (greed)
 - power
 - land
 - terrorism
 - child labour
 - stealing
- we think these things cause war because they cause people to disagree with different things such as races, weapons, disagreeing, and religion (and fighting over the world)
- Why war is bad:
 - people die
 - because it effects people's lives
 - you risk other people's lives
 - people have wars because they use weapons
 - people make fun and say bad things about their religion and races
 - because it can kill pets and animals



Next Steps:

- Things we can do to stop wars:
 - write letters (email)
 - pictures of the war
 - get information

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What youth can do to build a world fit for children"

November 18, 2004

- Positive: if you win you can live peacefully if you take the risk of losing everything but you do not have to
- Negative; you could take a risk and lose everything
- innocent people die. You lose millions of military people and machinery and all your land

Post-it Comments:

- One of the most common causes of war is greed and want for more, for example land
- Why not PEACE instead?
- Peace in the world. Peace in our homes, Peace in our hearts
- War begins in the minds of men, and that's where it should end! If the dead could return, there would be no war.
- UN Charter is law so using force against a sovereign nation is illegal under the charter which all UN nations have ratified
- I think it should be over!
- War should be over !
- War is bad !
- NO more War
- Yes, war is very bad
- I think so... should end !
- I agree, it is not good to have warfare
- sometimes wars are necessary to achieve Peace
- real true!
- Great work!
- good job!
- Awesome
- Awesome
- Smart Kids!
- This group did a good job!

Dot Count:

Red: 5

Blue: 0