

PeaceJam: A Model of Peace Education

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This research project examines the PeaceJam model and reviews the literature surrounding peace and nonviolence. The PeaceJam model is comprised of three parts: education, inspiration, and action. Students educate themselves about violence, racism, nonviolence, and the peacemaking process. They use the real-life inspiration of the most highly honored peacemakers of our times, the Nobel Peace Laureates. From their knowledge and inspiration, they create peace projects in their schools, local community, and/or global peace efforts.

After reviewing current peace education literature from various perspectives, several important elements of peace education programs have emerged: 1) Programs should be integrated across a variety of social levels; 2) Programs should focus on positive peace, including peace building and peacemaking, not just peacekeeping; 3) Education in the Programs should include: a) the nature of violence, b) human rights, c) diversity, d) cooperation, e) and respect; 4) Education programs should contain action; 5) programs should empower; 6) Programs should be strengths-based; 7) Programs should advocate nonviolent social change; 8) Programs should contain alternatives to violence; 9) Programs should educate youth of all ages; 10) Programs should be based on multidisciplinary and multicultural understandings of adolescent development. I found that PeaceJam is an excellent example of a peace education program and that it contains all of these elements; recommendations for future growth of the PeaceJam program are offered.