

ANTHROPOLOGY AND GANG CULTURE WITH THE TRANSGANG PROJECT

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE

1. When and where did city gangs come to life in the US?
2. Why did they exist?

COMPREHENSION

1. In your own words, explain what is meant by mediation.
2. In the article, it says that gang members have 'hidden skills like empathy and resilience'. Why do you think these skills are 'hidden'?
3. Why would these skills make gang members good mediators?

APPLICATION

4. What would you do if you knew someone who was in a street group and in a conflict situation?
5. How could this person resolve their situation?

ANALYSIS

6. In what ways do youth street groups differ from other gangs, such as organised crime groups?
7. How successful or effective do you think mediation would be if it were applied to street groups in your area?

CREATIVITY

8. If you were an anthropologist on the TRANSGANG project, what questions would you like to ask a gang member?
9. Imagine a scenario where mediation helps solve a conflict between a gang and the local community. Write it down and present it to your group or class.

MORE RESOURCES

Take a look at TRANSGANG's official website:

<https://www.upf.edu/web/transgang>

Practise your Spanish and read César's Diary of a Latin King:

<http://latinkings.es>

Also in Spanish is Dr Carles Feixa's blog, but you can use translation tools if you need to: <https://carlesfeixa.com/en/>

Being ManKind has a great lesson plan, which explores reasons why young people join gangs: [https://www.ghll.org.uk/Supplementary%20session%201%20-%20Teacher_s%20plan%20\(KS3%20to%20KS5\).pdf](https://www.ghll.org.uk/Supplementary%20session%201%20-%20Teacher_s%20plan%20(KS3%20to%20KS5).pdf)

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

ACTIVITY 1

CONFLICTS DO NOT HAVE TO BE BAD

Most people see conflict as a situation to be avoided at any cost. In some cases, however, disputes should be seen as opportunities to solve a long-standing problem. When faced with a conflict, you can decide to react positively or negatively. Discover how different responses to a conflict situation will have a massive impact on how it is solved.

- Divide yourselves into small groups
- In each group, come up with a possible conflict situation. (For example, two people have a crush on the same girl/boy; or a friend has started posting inappropriate content on social media.)
- List both positive and negative ways to solve the conflict.
- Discuss why positive ways are more likely to lead to successful mediation, and why negative ways are likely to escalate the issue further.

ACTIVITY 2

CONFLICT ROLE PLAY

Bring the examples from activity 1 to life by acting out the scenario and mediating a conflict.

- In each small group, use the same examples as before and have two students pretend to be in a conflict and the rest pretend to mediate. Try both positive and negative approaches.
- Have each side present their story, and then ask the mediators to help reach a workable solution. Which one was easier – positive or negative?