

PUTTING INTO WORDS A VIOLENT INCIDENT¹

Objective: To recognize the factors found in an act of violence.

Also to show attempts to deal with problems related to violence.

Activity 1: Pick one of the following situations

- CAR ACCIDENT.

“A couple, while crossing the road imprudently, died after being run over by a car that had been hit by another car on Marques de la Cadena Street”

- FIGHT BETWEEN RIVAL GANGS

A young man is found dead as a result of what appears to be a setting of scores

- RIOT



“133 dead in riot: A fight between rival gangs of prisoners to gain control of a Dominican jail triggers a fire in one wing and ends in tragedy”

1. Imagine that you had to develop a TV news report on one of the acts relating to violence above

Duration of the news: 2 minutes

¹ GASCON BAQUERO, M.C. (2008): *Comunicando Paz. Otros medios de Comunicación desde el mismo Laberinto*. Ed. Popular. Madrid Pp. 116-124.

2. Thing to be done before developing the news

- Analyze the pros and cons of emitting such a TV news report
- Clarify the direct contents that you wish to transmit: images, text, and real sound.
- Think about how you will present the violence and to what degree
- Think about the feelings and attitudes that we wish the visual news to generate in the spectators

3. Activity to be done:

- Edit the images and original sound
- Transcribe the script
- Combine the script with the images or scenes selected .Sequence the parts of what is going to be transmitted: decide on the order and the reason for this order.
- Audiovisual information that is supposedly available for such a report:
 - A press conference at an Institution where the incident occurred. Impartial language describing what happened (95 seconds)
 - A press conference involving the doctor and the hospital where the injured are (85 seconds)
 - A conversation with a witness or person directly affected by the incident. Make sure that they describe with much detail what they have seen (63 seconds)
 - An interview with a professional. They can give you a clear focused answer on what will happen next (85 seconds)
 - Find images that are both clear and full of impact. Make sure that they clearly show what happened. (115 seconds)
- What complimentary information do you consider necessary for this news?
- And for another piece of news about a violent incident that you had to report?

And example of how structural violence might to dealt with:

Publish the conclusions of a high-ranking commission concerning prison conditions revealing the structural problems found there which have not been remedied despite the time that has clapsed since they were drawn up.

- Think about the importance that the information transmitted by the media has for those who are eager to receive it: like relatives of the victim for example. Evaluate the words and expressions used, some of which can leave an indelible impression on one's memory: "destroyed bodies" "body parts". Think about a way to transmit information so that it is sympathetic with human suffering and pain. Make certain sectors of the population aware that some people feel they have been plundered by society itself.

Activity 2:

In this following exercise you will find a diagram stating the Laws of Violence. Think of a violent act and look for its antecedents and consequences. If you don't have access to this type of information make up a case that you think would apply. What happened before the incident? What happened after the incident? Analyze it to see if during the whole process (antecedents, acts, and consequences) it corresponds to any of these laws..

CONTINUITY

Once you have resorted to violence the only option seems to be to continue to resort to it.

RECIPROCITY

If you feel that violence has been used against you, it is most likely that you will use it too.

LAWS of *VIOLENCE*²

COMPARISON

Once you have agreed to use violence against someone, you have in effect agreed that your adversary may use it too.

AUTOJUSTIFICACION

Violence never solves the problem it sought to fix, and it just ends up producing more violence.

SELF JUSTIFICATION

The person that uses violence always tries to justify themselves and their violent actions.

² ELLUL, J. Violence. Seasbury Press. London. 1969 p. 93-108 in LEDERACH P. 64-65.