

TEN WAYS TO COMBAT HOSTILITY

If you are finding hostility or hate developing in your school, try the following prescription for an effective cure.

1. **TAKE ACTION:** Do something that draws a positive response against hate.
2. **ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP:** You could gather ideas and form a group of culturally diverse people in your school or church.
3. **SHOW SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS:** It is good to show that you care about the victim. It is understood that he/she may feel defensive, fearful or isolated.
4. **RESEARCH.** Investigate the hate group: What symbols or words do they use? What agenda do they have? Anti-hate organizations frequently update their information. Share what you find out with an appropriate audience.
5. **PRODUCE POSITIVE RESPONSES:** Find a way to focus on the issues and less on the emotion so that your message is communicated effectively. Students are often very helpful when needed to plan and execute an event.
6. **TEACH TOLERANCE:** Some schools have been experiencing the results of hate within their student populations. It has affected the way school administrations watch their student bodies. It has affected the way they help to maintain a state of inclusion. Design curriculum that must be used all year long.
7. **COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE:** Take frequent formal or informal surveys of your school's image in the community. What is being said about the ways discipline and hate are handled?
8. **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER:** Prepare information or positive reports on eradicating hate.

