

Types of Conflict Learning Experience 25

[Conflict Resolution Skills Module](#)

Grade Level Range: Middle School - Adult

To the Teacher:

The purpose of this learning experience is to help students understand the different types and sources of conflict.

Procedure/Directions:

Review the different types and sources of conflict (outlined below). Have students brainstorm (either in small groups or as a whole class) examples of the different kinds of conflict and examples of the sources of conflict for each specific type. Ask students to share examples of each type of conflict they have or are currently experiencing.

There are four basic types of conflict.

1. Intrapersonal conflict occurs when one's goals, values, or roles diverge.
2. Interpersonal Conflict exists between two or more people, such as family members and friends. It can result from a misunderstanding, an impasse in the relationship, or a difference in goals, values, and needs.
3. Intragroup conflict occurs within a group or among its members where members disagree over goals or procedures.
4. Intergroup conflict occurs between groups such as political parties, states, and nations or between groups within the same organization or country.

Sources of Conflict

Conflict usually falls into one of several categories:

1. Misunderstandings.
2. Needs, desires, goals, and positions.
3. Power and control.
4. Resources. Conflicts over needs occur when one person, group, team, or nation wants something that seems to be in short supply. Examples include water, food, oil, or even a parking space.
5. Values. Conflicts over values occur when parties differ over their most deeply held beliefs, morals, and goals. Values conflicts may also occur within an individual. Values conflicts can be very difficult to resolve and sometimes can only be managed.

Suggested Follow-Up Activity

Once students understand the different types and sources of conflict, have them complete the Conflicts I & My Peers Experience Learning Experience ([Conflict Resolution Skills Module](#)), the purpose of which is to explore in depth the conflicts they and their peers are currently experiencing or have experienced.