Sandra Peters

**Lesson:**  Toxic Words Have Toxic Affects

The purpose of this lesson is to teach kids to understand the words that are coming out of their mouths and to recognize the damaging affect they have on other people.

**Objectives:**  Students will analyze the meaning of commonly used toxic- words and sayings to understand the damaging affect they have on others and will promote a school campaign to stop other students from using them.

After hearing an audio and participating in discussion, students will write a reflection on what it would be like to be the one mistreated with toxic words and actions and how their own toxic words have affected someone.

**Snappy Launch:**  Can YOUR words kill? Read an exert from the parents of an Anoka student that commited suicide after being bullied to death.

**Activity:** Write down specific groups of people on the board.

* Gay
* Lesbian
* Transgender
* Bisexual
* Obese
* Poor
* Etc.
* Ask students to anonymously write down every derogatory word they have ever spoken about these people.
* Read them out loud and break them down on the board to show exactly ***what they mean,*** and the ***damage*** they cause to the person they are aimed at.
* Define them and use them in examples that relate to them (That is so Mike, like being Mike is the worst possible thing to be).
* Discus the fact that they are making fun of someone for being them selves. How would they feel?

**Closing:**Turn the tables-Reflection

* Ask them to imagine being made fun of over and over.  To be ridiculed every day all day in school.
* Have students reflect on how it would feel to be called the words on the board.
* Have students write down how their specific words and actions affected others.
* Have students create a school campaign to help stop other students from using toxic words and actions.
* Post it on a school bulletin board for other students to see.

**Assessment:**

Reflection statements

Campaign against toxic words and actions