



**wiFi** ght [(h)wī-fīt]

EDUCATIONAL THEME -PACK

2008 | 2009



youth meeting  
building global friendship

To the staff of all 2009 Youth Meetings

Greetings from the Youth Meeting Committee

One of our main tasks is the constant improvement of our programme, for this reason we are constantly concerned about the educational content, as we feel that Program Content is the way of expressing and transmitting CISV's Goals.

We therefore reinforce the implementation of an educational theme in our camps. If each of the activities of CISV programs are chosen on a theme-based system, it is easier to meet specific educational objectives. For assisting the selection process we encourage you to look at the CISV Education Circle (refer to appendix I).

In order to develop the educational content of the Youth Meetings, the committee introduces this pack and various ideas about how to develop a theme before, during and even after the camp. It is also a tool to help the staff of 2008/09 camps to help them develop and use the YM Annual Theme **WiFight**.

We would please ask the staff to not only use the theme and this pack, but to give the committee as much feedback as possible, on the annual theme and the accompanied tools since this will enable us to evaluate them and include them in next year "Exploring the Theme Pack".

Many thanks  
Youth Meeting Committee

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# Considering the Theme

Creating an educational theme is a powerful tool for the development of the program, the personal growth and the valuable learning experience of the participants at all ages. By using the theme we can assure the quality and educational content of the programme, gain attitudes, skills and knowledge and hopefully will be a source of inspiration when planning activities.

## The Theme

### vi·o·lence [ˈvɪ-lən(t)s]

*noun*

exertion of physical force so as to injure or abuse **b:** an instance of violent treatment or procedure

Violence in a broad sense is a word used to describe forceful and intentional injury to people; it also entails verbal and emotional abuse towards others.

When thinking about violence, our thoughts are narrowed to aggression or physical assault ignoring the different aspects of it, such as violence towards ideologies, cultures, beliefs, gender etc... Or different types of violence such as psychological and emotional violence.

The educational theme for this year is controversial, but full of different approaches which gives space for personal and collective reflection, discussion and empowers participants to act and make a positive change in the society they live in.

So... **WiFight**, why is the natural response of humans to react aggressively when someone or something is not in accordance with his/her own thoughts? We experience violence every day without even noticing it, as projectors or receivers. If we stop and think about the vast amount of ways in which we affect living beings (humans, nature, animals etc) we can therefore start thinking how can we actively contribute to alleviate it.

The theme is also interrelated with two big topics going on in our organization namely: the IJB Theme 2007-2009 **conflict and peace education** and this year theme of UNESCO dealing with **Human Rights education**. We encourage you to check it out and implement as many as constructive activities as you can, dealing with all these themes.

Embrace, Reflect, Think and Act upon it.

# Subsections

In order to effectively implement the theme it will be easier to approach it from one specific area. This area should be the one that interest you the most or the one that you find more relevant. Find below a list of sub themes that are in line with **WiFight**.

## **Types of Violence:**

- Physical
- Psychological
- Sexual

## **Violence towards:**

- Ideas
- Religion
- Culture
- Race
- Gender
- Relationship
- Sexual Orientation
- Animals
- Beliefs (E.g. Vegetarian)
- Family Members
- Political Views
- Socio - economical classes

## **Reasons:**

- Lack of Money
- Hunger
- Superiority Complex
- Health
- Oppression
- Power
- Conflict
- Anger
- Effects of Media

## **Forms:**

- Terrorism
- War
- Genocide
- Murder
- Fights
- Hate Crimes
- Racial Violence
- Verbal Violence

These are some sub-themes, however of course there are many others that you can relate to the idea of violence if necessary use brain storming, mind mapping and further material research.

# How to choose a specific theme

When you select a theme for your camp it is suggested to consider the following criteria:

- Its relevance to *CISV's and IYM's Goals*
- The opportunities it will provide for experiential learning
- The opportunities it will provide for the development of Attitudes, Skills and Knowledge (ASK) (refer to appendix)
- The interests and needs of the age group involved in the program
- The overall knowledge that the staff group has about the topic.
- The Host Culture and Cultural Background of the participants. Take advantage of the diversity of the group and how this can positively contribute to the development of the theme and the dynamics of the program.
- The personal interests.
- It should be inspiring and motivating.

The theme should permit the selection of different symbols that will lead the group of participants, leaders and staff to identify their role and their responsibility with it in their daily life and make a positive impact in their society.

## AGE GROUP

The specific theme should be selected so that it suits the age group of the Youth Meeting.

### **12-13 years old:**

The camp theme for 12-13 years old should be simple but broad. The theme should be approachable and the participants should be helped in planning, by the staff and the leaders. It will be normal, at the beginning to plan fun and running activities, but leaders and staff, depending on the level of the group, could suggest more serious activities. Abstract discussions (and theme) should be avoided, preferable instead more concrete debriefing. In case the participants do not plan the serious activities it is necessary that the leaders and the staff plan them, being aware of the reality of the group.

### **14-15 years old:**

In this age, the participants are more mature and should be given a bigger responsibility in the planning, which means they should be involved in both planning and running activities. The theme is therefore, suggested to be a bit more serious than for the younger age group and something that the participants can relate to.

Try to avoid planning too many fun games, instead encourage the participants to plan activities related to issues that matter to them in their daily life taken from the theme of the camp. The theme for this age should be rather concrete than abstract. It is important to emphasize that it is possible to plan fun activities (such as running games) with a serious content beyond it. To do these kinds of activities, it is necessary to have a good debriefing planned and the leaders and staff should be aware of their responsibility to achieve this.

### **16-18 and 19 up:**

The theme for 16-18 and 19 up should be challenging and maybe also related to world-issues, cultural background such as different political/environmental situations. The staff has to decide the theme and explain it to the participants before the camp, so that these can research and prepare them selves. The participants will be the ones deciding the direction they want to take in the development of the theme as they go on. The staff should also make activities at the beginning of camp related to the theme so participants can have these activities as examples or guide, this doesn't mean all the activities should be done in the Staff's way; however this will encourage and guide the participants in their planning. The staff's role is extremely important as a facilitator in the camp and in the development of the theme

# Developing the theme

## BEFORE

### When to choose the theme?

The theme in a Youth Meeting is one of the most important parts in the educational process; having a well-defined theme before the camp is one of the essential elements, because it is the backbone of the program, and it is a starting point to develop activities. For this reason the staff should reflect on this and choose a sub- theme before the camp; in this way they can communicate it to the delegations/participants in order to provide some time for preparation before the camp. Ideally the specific theme should be outlined with the 1st pre-camp.

### How to present the theme in the pre-camp

It's really important how the staff presents the theme in the Pre-camp, in fact this should be inspirational and motivating so that the delegations/participants are encouraged to make some research and prepare themselves for a great development of the camp. While you present the topic it is important to keep a little bit of surprise, for when the camp begins, so the participants can let their imagination fly, yet at the same time, don't be too vague as it can be perceived.

There are many different ways to present the theme; we give you some suggestions, however we are sure that you can be more creative than us!

- a. You can decide to write down some question that reflect the theme and at the same time initiate a reflection about it.
- b. You can draw a mind mapping (adding serious with fun)
- c. You can suggest some movies to be watched before the camp that have a link with the theme. Refer to the Toolbox for a detailed list of movies that are related with the theme. Also which ones might be appropriate with the age group.  
This can be a good way to introduce the theme to the participants. At the same time it's a good way for the delegations to get to know each other and start working. Many cartoons can be used as examples, as they present aspects of the theme in a light way, for example "Over the Hedge" or "Brother Bear" a Disney Movie. Please be aware of the age group of your camp, so be wise in choosing.
- d. You can ask participants/delegations to prepare a power point presentation or a little film, maybe including something related with the theme and your or the country's reality.
- e. Ask the different countries to do their own activity that relates the theme with their national reality. This is a good way to involve the cultural issue on the development of the theme.

#### Note:

Keep in mind while you are developing the theme that is necessary to challenge all the different ages. Don't underestimate any age group.

## DURING

### How to develop a specific theme?

For a camp to be successful it needs a really defined development of the theme; because of the short length of the IYM that can be one or two weeks, the staff needs to think in advance on how to develop the theme.

Of course this development can be integrated with the help of the delegations/participants once the Youth Meeting starts.

The development of the theme is really important because it helps the camp to have a starting and arriving point, in order to have a clear direction where the camp is going and of course to structure the camp.

Here are some ways to develop the theme initially in the camp: (Please note that these are just rough ideas and suggestions, and we would really like you to find your own way of being creative in presenting and developing the theme)

a) To sit down and mind map the theme itself with the leaders/participants, then together with consensus chose a direction to follow. Leaders and participants are more likely to follow a theme if they feel a sense of ownership for it.

b) Have a list of questions or topics about the theme to discuss (questions having scope) and then have the participants in two circles, one inside the other both circles facing each other. Each participant should have one person facing him or her, and they have a set time to discuss a question. After this time, one of the circles moves one way, so that everyone is facing someone new, to discuss the next question.

c) In the delegation meetings, you can make a presentation or activity, and then give them some time to respond with a presentation/sketch of the local reality for them.

There is not only one way to develop a theme, and we don't want to suggest one set structure, because the exploration depends entirely on the theme itself and the direction which you wish to take.

The main objective of having the theme is purely to consider it, to elaborate it. This doesn't mean that every single activity should be linked with the theme, but the focus should be there. The expansion of the theme is the best end goal of an IYM.

The development of the theme is going to make the difference between the IYM to the other CISV programs. This is the reason why we suggest to plan and create an outcome that would concretize this development to the participant. It is important to clarify that by an outcome, we don't necessary mean a project, but at least one activity that would make the participants realized what they've done during the camp in relation to the theme and especially what they've learned from it.

## **AFTER**

We would like to encourage thinking broadly about the theme, with the possibilities of following the theme after the camp. This can be done in many ways such as: finishing an activity back in the home countries or applying an activity, which has been done in the camp, back to a local reality.

Right now, the most important thing that you can do is giving a feedback to the YM Committee how the theme was developed in the camp so that we can publish this on the website to get an overview of the development [youthmeeting@cisv.org](mailto:youthmeeting@cisv.org).