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## **Chain of Change: Media Justice Blogging for Youth**

### **About the Chain of Change project**

Chain of Change is a Beyondmedia Education initiative that has been organizing youth since 2007 to create and broadcast media that expose the roots of violence and explore solutions for violence prevention. Videos, photographs, audio podcasts and articles are posted to the Chain of Change website ([www.chainofchange.com](http://www.chainofchange.com)), an online forum where youth share work, discuss the impact of violence on their lives and collaboratively create community-based solutions.

Chain of Change is committed to advancing justice and increasing civic engagement in and through media. We see gaps and contradictions between mainstream media reports on violence affecting youth and what youth themselves are experiencing. The Chain of Change blog seeks to fill in the gaps by including the first-person perspectives of youth directly impacted by violence.

### **Writing a Chain of Change Blog Entry**

The following two worksheets can be used to help students develop blogging ideas for [www.chainofchange.com](http://www.chainofchange.com). Students can create a blog entry by:

- Responding to a video or article on the website;
- Reflecting on their personal experiences and views on violence; or
- Documenting violence or anti-violence actions in their schools and communities.

We welcome educators to have a discussion on how young people define violence before handing out the worksheets. Chain of Change expands the definition of violence to anything that is harmful in some way to a person, their family, friends, school, and community. Harmful things can be physical, emotional, or verbal, and can manifest in various forms. In discussions, note that violence is not just physical or verbal altercations, but is also present in the closing down of local stores, being denied human rights, hearing derogatory words, and living in a community that lacks access to resources such as healthy foods, technology, education, and transportation to name a few. Encouraging youth to explore the youth-authored videos and articles on [www.chainofchange.com](http://www.chainofchange.com) will help them understand how their peers are defining, experiencing and understanding violence.

## Submitting a Blog Entry for [www.chainofchange.com](http://www.chainofchange.com)

To submit a blog entry, go to: [www.chainofchange.com/submissions/](http://www.chainofchange.com/submissions/)

- Select **A Story for the Blog** under **What would you like to submit?**
- Click on **Next Page**.
- Fill out the form and paste the blog entry into the **Story** box. Students can choose to fill out as much or as little personal information as they like (entries can be submitted anonymously).
- Once the form is complete, click on the **Submit** button located on the left side of the page. The entry will be sent to the web designer for review and within a few working days, the blog entries will appear at: [www.chainofchange.com/blog/](http://www.chainofchange.com/blog/)

For any questions or concerns about this process or this project, please contact us through the website form at:

[www.chainofchange.com/contact](http://www.chainofchange.com/contact)

### **About Beyondmedia Education**

Beyondmedia Education's mission is to collaborate with under-served and under-represented women, youth and communities to tell their stories, connect their stories to the world around us, and organize for social justice through the creation and distribution of media arts.

For more information about Beyondmedia or to schedule a media workshop with your class or community group, visit us at: [www.beyondmedia.org](http://www.beyondmedia.org)

## **Worksheet #1 (Response Blog to Video/Article)**

Select a video or blog article from [www.chainofchange.com](http://www.chainofchange.com). Based on the video/article you selected, please answer the following:

**1) What is the video or article about?**

**2) What are some of the messages presented in the video or article?**

**3) Do you agree or disagree with what is being said or how the information is being presented?**

**4) How could the video or article be better?**

**5) Whose POV (Point of View) is depicted in the video or article? What POVs are missing?**

Based on your responses to the questions above, select an answer you'd like your blog to focus on. For example if you are responding to a news article about police and young men, but the article only interviews police officers, your blog can be about how the article could be different if young men were interviewed.

## **Worksheet #2 (Personal Blog Entry/ Documenting Violence & Anti-violence Actions)**

Please answer the following questions to help you decide what you'd like to blog about. It is easier to blog about something that affects you personally, that you are willing to share, and that you are passionate about. Also consider what kind of effect or reaction your blog entry will have on the people that read it.

**1) Describe your community, school, and/ or family.**

**2) What do you like most about your community, school, and/ or family?  
What do you like least about your community, school, and/ or family?**

**3) If you could change something in your community, school, and/ or family, what would it be? How would you change it?**

**4) Describe a violent act you witnessed or took part in. Who was involved? Where did it happen? When did it happen? What was the action that took place? Why do you think this action occurred?**

**5) Describe an anti-violence action you witnessed or took part in. Who was involved? Where did it happen? When did it happen? What was the action that took place? Why do you think this action occurred?**

**6) Is there anything happening around you that makes you sad, uncomfortable, angry, or confused? If yes, what?**

**7) Why is it happening and can anything be done to prevent or end it?**

Based on your responses to the questions above, select an answer you'd like your blog to focus on. It can be a personal story of how violence is affecting you to potential solutions your community can engage in to prevent violence.