“Our vision is for people to live equally and have a peaceful life.”

Mission: To help people end prejudice and bigotry by talking to community leaders, students, and making speeches.
Group Members

Joshua 7th grade
Edgar 8th grade
Antonio 8th grade
Isaiah 6th grade
Hector 7th grade
Jose 6th grade
Silver Laur-Group Advisor
Group Ideas

- Original topic = Racism in the Community.

- Changed topic after group members brought up the issue of students calling bilingual students from South American countries “hicks.”

  “Hicks” = negative term used against people who don’t speak English or who might be seen to not be very intelligent.
Initial Questions

- Why/where do people experience prejudice/bigotry the most in the community?
- How Dangerous can it get if people are prejudiced/bigoted?
- Why are people prejudiced/bigoted to others?
- How can we stop prejudice/bigotry in our community?
- Do kids experience prejudice/bigotry?
Definitions:

PREJUDICE: is when a person negatively pre-judges another person or group without getting to know the beliefs, thoughts, and feelings behind their words and actions. A person of any racial group can be prejudiced towards a person of any other racial group.

BIGOTRY: is stronger than prejudice, a more severe mindset and often accompanied by discriminatory behavior including doing or saying negative things. It’s arrogant and mean-spirited.
Survey

- 833 students at New Brunswick Middle School took the Survey.
- To gather information about student’s opinions and experiences.
- Varied representation of 6th-8th grade students.
In the New Brunswick Community

-To review data, we decided to use the “Neutral” option as a boundary and to mainly review the information to the right and left sides of the graph.

**Due to answers, we decided that “Neutral” should not have been given as an option.
In the New Brunswick Community

![Bar chart showing responses to statements about prejudice and bigotry in New Brunswick.](chart.png)
In New Brunswick Middle School.

Prejudice and bigotry are problems in the Middle School.

Prejudice and bigotry can lead to dangerous situations between students.

I have heard kids calling other kids "hicks" in school.

I, or someone I know, have called someone a "hick" in school.

Calling others words like "hick" has negative effects on students.

I have told people that their words or actions are prejudiced or bigoted.

I know who to go to if I hear someone saying bigoted things to students.
Where do you see prejudice and Bigotry?

- Most see it in the school, the streets, and also public places.
- More than half the students see it in places when there are students present.
- Where does this issue come from?
Impressions

What did we think when we found the answers?
Analia Albuja Visit

-Master of Sciences, PhD Student at Rutgers.
-Research: How does discrimination affect bicultural and biracial people?
-Scientific research: very similar ideas as ours.
Analia Albuja Visit

- Helped us to answer one of our initial questions: Why are people prejudiced?
  - Fear is a leading emotion driving prejudice.
  - Society: Humans naturally identify, categorize, and compare ourselves and others.
  - Favor people who are similar to them.
Shooter Bias

- Test with limited time to decide if a picture depicts a danger.
- More likely to accidentally shoot unarmed Black vs. White target
- More likely to accidentally FAIL to shoot armed White vs. Black target
Reducing Prejudice

- Change laws/rules.
- Changing behavior changes attitudes.
- Contact with members of other groups breeds acceptance.
- Motivate people to think more deeply about their actions.
Goals for the School Year

- Share findings with staff and students.
- Create posters and presentations.
- Contact community leaders for assistance/ideas.
In New Brunswick Middle School.

- Majority say that Prejudice and bigotry are problems in the Middle School.
  - 318 say Yes, 179 say No
- Majority Prejudice and bigotry can lead to dangerous situations between students.
  - 544 Say Yes, 86 say No.
- Majority I have heard kids calling other kids "hicks" in school.
  - 533 say Yes, 149 say No.
- More than half have know someone, who has called someone a "hick" in school.
  - 384 say Yes, 308 say No.

- If we would include the neutral answers, we would likely have more who agree.