



SAMPLE PROJECTS

So you've got a project to plan.

Before you get totally overwhelmed and want to crawl into a hole for a year, break it down. The project can be something small and easy, yet still get people's attention. Even the most elaborate projects are manageable when you break them down into smaller pieces and attack them one by one.

To help you turn your ideas into events, we've included some sample projects. There is a description of each project so you get the idea of what to do, planning time needed, and things to consider. It would stink to make 100 posters, and put them up only to have them taken down and thrown away because you didn't get them approved beforehand. Think before you act, as you already know.

We've included some sample projects to get you started, including:

- Forming a group
- Ribbons
- Flyers
- Having an awareness week



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Form a group

Are you a part of a group that works to prevent teen dating violence through education and awareness? If you already are a part of an established group in your school, then great. However, if there is not a group that works on this issue, start one!

Find out your school's policy on forming a club. In most high schools you'll need an advisor (see the "Working with an Advisor" worksheet). Once you have an advisor, you can advertise through word of mouth, flyers, and morning announcements... whatever you can think of to let people know about your group. Figure out when and where you can meet.

Considerations: Starting a group is a big commitment. Make sure your advisor and the other people in your group are really going to help you make this a success. Make sure the members are really committed—whether that be by having a selection process, or group discussions—whatever you think works for your group.

Time needed: Your group should try to meet at least once a week to really get the ball rollin'.

When planning events, it's often a good idea to form committees within the group to tackle different aspects of the event so it doesn't all fall on just a few people. For instance, have a committee to work on ribbons, another to work on flyers, and so on.

You've got your group—it's time for the projects!

As a group you can do things like:

- Brainstorm and research ideas for your school
- Get your school to change its policies on violence, sexual harassment, etc.
- Hold an assembly about relationship violence
- Organize an awareness day
- Have a fundraiser for a local shelter



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Ribbons: Educating and showing support

This is an easy and effective project. It's become common to see someone wearing a pin with a pink ribbon and recognize that they support Breast Cancer awareness, or someone with a red ribbon that supports AIDS awareness. You want to do the same thing – let a certain color ribbon become a show of support for activism against TDV. Have your committee decide on a theme color, so that everyone is aware that your color equals TDV. Once you've decided on a color, try and find someone to donate the ribbon (maybe an art supply store, the art department at your high school, etc.) The only other thing you need are enough pins for everyone at your high school. Cut the ribbon in bows and fit them onto the pins, and parcel them out to the people on your committee. On the day of the event, have those people stationed at the doors and entrances to your school to offer the ribbons to people.

Interesting ideas: Tape or pin the ribbons to a card that gives a little info about teen dating violence (stats or definitions). Also include ways people can do something about the issue, like "Five Things You Can Do To End Relationship Violence." For ideas, check out www.seeitandstopit.org. Cards are easy to make: just divide a piece of paper into four sections, write up the info (or use a computer), and photocopy. Cut the cards out, attach the ribbon and you're done!

Time needed: This isn't a very difficult project, but it can be time consuming. Ask about promoting the ribbons at least a month in advance, and don't wait longer than two weeks before the event to start creating the ribbons. Always plan ahead.

Publicity: It is imperative for projects like this that people understand the symbolism of the ribbons. Make sure to put up flyers/posters at school as well as write morning announcements promoting the day, the cause and why it's so important.

<Announcer> "Beginning next Monday, Bradley High School Students against Violence will be handing out ribbons to promote awareness and activism against teen dating violence. Pick one up at lunch and show your support! Thank you!"

Considerations: Not everyone will want to wear a ribbon. Don't chase them down. You should also check with your advisor about any policies regarding distribution.



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Flyers and Posters: Changing minds

This project is a bit more creative, but it's important to stick to a theme. With your committee, decide what you are trying to get across – statistics, catch phrases, warning signs, etc. Make sure they all work together because the point of this project is to bring awareness to a particular issue, so the execution should be very clear. Hang them wherever you can in your school, along with the TAC campaign posters, so the issue is right in front of everyone.

Time needed: Have your committee meet twice a week for 1-2 hours a month to create the theme and the actual posters.

Publicity: Make a few announcements to bring the student body's awareness to the issue. Explain why it's so important to be aware, and bring a serious tone to it. This will raise curiosity and discourage vandalism by portraying the seriousness of the issue.

Interesting idea: Invite an art class to create the posters. Give them the catch phrases, statistics, etc. and use their artwork alongside the TAC campaign.

Considerations: Get your posters approved by your advisor. Also, know your limits in terms of what is and isn't allowed to be shown or said on the posters and how many posters are allowed on campus.

Morning announcements: Awareness

Make morning announcements regarding the issue of TDV. You can just mention it, or you could give a new statistic every day, etc.

Time: Not much needed. Make sure you have at least two weeks before the announcements start to come up with ideas, proofread them and decide on who will make the announcements.

Publicity: Nothing beyond the announcements is needed.

Considerations: Approval. Know who is going to read the announcements before they are supposed to. Make sure your announcements have been approved by an advisor so you don't end up saying something to the student body that you shouldn't have.

Interesting idea: You can keep consistency by doing things like mentioning the same catch phrase every time, along with a different warning sign or statistic.



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Anti-Violence Week: Getting everyone involved

This is an involved project that will take a whole week. Make one week in your school TDV Awareness Week, and plan a different project every day, and try to get as many people involved as possible. Ideas include:

- Getting teams and clubs involved: Have the football team or the drama club sign a pact saying they will not stand for relationship violence. Have the lacrosse team wear t-shirts with statistics. People look up to team and club members; use the power of peer influence to help your cause. Peer pressure isn't always bad!
- Create a play or sketch about TDV to show at an assembly
- Student speak out
- Bring in a speaker to give a speech on relationship violence and its effects

Time: As mentioned before, this is a very time consuming project. You will need a few months to put together ideas, figure out who is doing what project, and then designate a day for each project.

Publicity: Use the morning announcements, school newspaper and flyers promoting the week and giving deadlines. You can also go to classes and give announcements regarding the need for participants. Students should know about this in advance so plan ahead!

Considerations: Have your advisor working with you to keep an eye on the flow of the projects. Make sure the school administration is well aware of what's happening. You need to make sure your TDV Awareness Week doesn't coincide with another project the school is planning.



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Anti-Violence Week (continued)

Educate!

Have math classes/teachers get involved by doing stats projects on teen dating violence, and help you with the flyers, etc.

Have art classes help you with clothesline, hallway events, flyers, etc.

Have the sports teams show their support.

Work with other organizations like the GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Many of these issues go hand in hand.

Have English classes find examples of gender stereotyping and violence in their literature.

The sky is the limit!

Use your resources!

Many students and teachers want to know more about this issue. Have a "teach-in", with TDV and SA 101. Facilitate discussions. Provide training for those who are a part of your group.

Plays: Brainstorm situations where you see warning signs and dating violence. Improvise a play with a set structure that shows the escalation of warning signs leading to dating violence, rape, etc. Have a discussion at the end both in-character, and then out- having the actors discuss their experience in the play. Have people submit poetry.

Big Sheet: Have a big sheet of paper on the wall of a hallway that reads, "I will not stand for relationship violence." Hang markers next to it so people can sign it as they walk.