3.3 Dealing With “-isms”

Objectives
Identify and interview another person who has had a direct confrontation with an “-ism.”

Analyze and discuss factors that contribute to and that mitigate oppressive behaviors.

Materials needed
Copies of the handout

Time needed
Sixty minutes or more

Instructor directions
Have your students identify and interview another person who has had a direct confrontation with an “-ism” (racism, sexism, classism, ageism, etc.).

Have them explore in depth how that person dealt with the encounter. Identify factors that were involved in and contributed to or mitigated the incident.
3.3 Dealing With “-isms” Handout

Directions
Identify and interview another person who has had a direct confrontation with an “-ism” (racism, sexism, classism, ageism, etc.).

Explore in depth how that person dealt with the encounter. Answer the following questions:

What “-ism” was involved?

Through what incident or series of incidents did the person experience the “-ism”?

How did the target group or person respond?

What factors seemed to motivate the aggressor?

What outcome or effect did the incident have on the target group or person?
How did the incident(s) affect the behavior, attitudes, or outlook of the target group or person?

How could the incident have been prevented, and/or what intervention could reduce the likelihood of recurrence of such incidents?

(This exercise is adapted from an exercise by Larry Roper, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Oregon State University.)