



Violence Prevention Roundtable of Berks
Community Organizing for the Prevention of Violence

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Media Arts and Technology Program Curriculum

Program Overview

Purpose: The Reading Technology Training Program will train city youths ages 13 to 19 who are at risk of becoming involved with neighborhood violence problem-solving skills through learning about and working with computer technologies.

Goals: Program participants will learn how to achieve manageable goals through working individually and in teams. The individual and team intermediary goals will lead to the completion of a networked computer lab. Each individual will develop a webpage to detail progress.

The intermediary goals will include a statement of individual and team goals, Internet and library research, inter-personal skills, career planning, job-interviewing skills and resumé writing.

Program participants will see how the technology-related skills they are learning apply to different careers through presentations given by local businesses and organizations.

Time Frame: The program will be 80 class room hours: two hours a day, four days a week for ten weeks. Participants who meet certain criteria will be able to advance to other ten week courses.

Referrals: Program participants who show violent, destructive behavior—either to themselves or others—will be referred to an appropriate agency for evaluation and intervention.

Schedule: The schedule is divided into five program areas: individual work, team work, life skills, website production work and business site visits.

Individual Work: Program participants will work individually to define personal and program goals and define intermediary goals to meet those goals.

Team Work: Program participants will work in groups to coordinate and integrate individual work into the final product.

Life-Skills: Program participants will learn about life, family, and career planning from area experts. Program participants

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will also be able to discuss issues that lead to violence and affect their ability to meet their personal goals.

Website Production: Program participants will work in teams to develop a website that details each participant's progress with documents and pictures.

Presenters: Program participants will participate in a questions and answers sessions with area experts to see the how the skills they are learning are applied in the work place.

Schedule Details

- Week 1/Day 1:** Intake: Program participants will complete a Intake Form detailing personal information. Some questions will be used to evaluate specific behaviors and attitudes. Some answers to the evaluation will be used to personalize the course to the individual participants and teams. All questionnaires and evaluations will be used for statistical purposes to further the mission of the Violence Prevention Roundtable of Berks.
- Week 1/Day 2:** Individual Goals: Program participants will complete a questionnaire about personal goals, including those for this specific program, career goals and life goals. Answers will be used to personalize the course to the individual participants and teams.
- Week 1/Day 3:** Team Formation: Teams of four participants will be formed based on answers provided on the Intake Form and Goals Questionnaire. Teams will define a theme to develop.
- Week 1/Day 4:** Preliminary Work Outline: Program participants will receive a curriculum detailing coursework and student expectations. Participants will be introduced to basic concepts that will be presented in detail during the program.
- Week 2/Days 1-3:** Introduction to Technology: Individuals will be introduced to the hardware they will be disassembling and reassembling as well as the operating system and software they will be installing. Important concepts and definitions will be introduced.
- Week 2/Day 2:** Life Skills (Hour 1).
- Week 2/Day 4:** 1st Presenter: Craig Dilks, Information Technology Supervisor, Reading School District. Mr. Dilks will focus how computer hardware and software is used in the education field.

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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	Intake	Individual Goals	Team Formation	Preliminary Work Outline
Week 2	Preliminary Work Outline	Life Skills	Introduction to Technology	1st Visitation: Reading School District
Week 3	Individual and Group Research on Hardware and HTML		Life Skills	Website Production Work
Week 4	Constructing Workstations/Diagnosing Hardware Issues		Life Skills	2nd Visitation: UG
Week 5	Testing on Hardware. Research on Operating Systems and Software		Life Skills	Website Production Work
Week 6	Installing Operating Systems and Software/Diagnosing Software Issues		Life Skills	3rd Visitation: Tech Basement
Week 7	Testing on Operating Systems and Software. Research on Networking		Life Skills	Website Production Work
Week 8	Networking	Life Skills	Networking	4th Presenter: Lynx Systems
Week 9	Testing on Networking		Resumé Writing	
Week 10	Finish Website Production		Job-Interviewing Skills	

	Individual Work
	Life Skills
	Professional Presenters

	Team Work
	Website Production Work
	Research and Learning Skills

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- Week 3/Days 1-3:** Individual and Group Research on Hardware and HTML: Individuals and Teams will use the Internet and library resources to research computer hardware and writing HTML.
- Week 3/Day 2:** Life Skills (Hour 1):
- Week 3/Day 4:** Website Production Work: Program participants will be introduced the software that will assist in writing the HTML code of their individual webpages and basic HTML formatting. Completed work will be posted to the VPRB website.
- Week 4/Days 1-3:** Construct Workstations/Diagnose Hardware Issues: Program participants will disassemble and reassemble workstations. Program participants will learn how to diagnose hardware issues during assembly.
- Week 4/Day 2:** Life Skills (Hour 1):
- Week 4/Day 4:** 2nd Presenter: Randy Dunkle, area supervisor, UGI Utilities, Inc. Mr. Dunkle will focus on how Linux is used on servers and as a backbone to feed information to Microsoft Windows workstations.
- Week 5/Days 1-3:** Testing on Hardware/Research on Operating Systems: Program participants will be tested on identifying hardware components and installation issues. Individuals and Teams will use the Internet and library resources to research the strengths and weaknesses of different computer operating systems.
- Week 5/Day 2:** Life Skills (Hour 1):
- Week 5/Day 4:** Website Production Work: Program participants will continue working on their individual webpages. Work will focus on formatting tables and learning about different graphic formats used on webpages. Completed work will be posted to the VPRB website.
- Week 6/Days 1-3:** Installing Operating Systems and Software/Diagnosing Software Issues: Program participants will install OpenSUSE Linus Version 10 on the workstations they had reassembled. Software Installation conflicts will be examined and resolved.
- Week 6/Day 2:** Life Skills (Hour 1):
- Week 6/Day 4:** 3rd Presenter: Troy Stanley, owner, Tech Basement. Mr. Stanley will focus on who computer skill are essential to operating a business.
- Week 7/Days 1-3:** Testing on Operating Systems and Software/Research on Networking: Program participants will be tested on the strengths and weaknesses of different operating systems and the uses of different software. Individuals and Teams will use the Internet and library resources to research the

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concepts and issues related to Networking.

Week 7/Day 2: Life Skills (Hour 1):

Week 7/Day 4: Website Production Work: Program participants will continue working on their individual webpages. Work will focus on advanced concepts; including the integration on PHP, Java and other script languages into HTML. Completed work will be posted to the VPRB website.

Week 8/Days 1-3: Networking: Teams will network their individual workstations.

Week 8/Day 2: Life Skills (Hour 1):

Week 8/Day 4: 4th Presenter: Lynx Systems. Staff from Lynx Systems will focus on how the implementation of network is important for businesses.

Week 9/Days 1-2: Testing on Networking: Program participants will be tested on Networking hardware and concepts.

Week 9/Days 3-4: Resumé Writing: Program participants will compose a resumé. The final product will be typed and formatted using OpenOffice, which the participants installed on the workstations they reassembled.

Week 10/Days 1-2: Program participants will finish individualizing their webpages.

Week 10/Days 3-4: Job-Interviewing Skills: Program participants will learn job-interviewing skills and participate in sample interviews

Projected Outcomes

Often a struggle for many city youth who are at-risk for committing violence in their communities is to understand that life they lead is largely their choice. The choice between violence and other destructive behavior that will eventually lead to jail, disability or an early death versus a productive lifestyle that makes positive contributions to society is determined by an individual's skill set. Program participants will learn a skills set that will allow them to make the choice to become productive citizens.

The skills set will include information and training that will allow the individual's to make good choices in personal-, family- and career-planning.

Program participants who excel in classwork, develop good inter-personal skills and show attentiveness to the presentations will be invited to participate in the Violence Prevention Roundtable's Information Technology Apprenticeship Program.