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## Project Teamwork: A Diversity and Violence Prevention Training Program

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# Project TEAMWORK

## A Diversity and Violence Prevention Training Program

### High School/Middle School

#### OVERVIEW

Project TEAMWORK is a diversity and violence prevention program composed of former professional and collegiate athletes. This multi-raced, mixed gender team is trained to work with middle and high school student leaders to combat all forms of discrimination, and teach practical conflict resolution skills. Project TEAMWORK's mission is to encourage greater sensitivity among people to the racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, ability, and gender issues impacting their lives.

#### HISTORY

Founded in 1990, Project TEAMWORK has been recognized as one of the leading diversity programs in the country. Well-known public opinion analyst, Lou Harris called Project TEAMWORK "America's most successful violence prevention program." Project TEAMWORK was also honored with the PETER F. Drucker Award as the most innovative non-profit program in the social sector. In 1995, then President Bill Clinton acknowledged Project TEAMWORK as a model violence prevention program.

#### TRAINING

Project TEAMWORK trains in middle and high schools. Each school selects 15 to 25 student leaders from diverse ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds to take part in a minimum of six hours of training. Project TEAMWORK splits its trainings into two parts: diversity and conflict resolution. The first part uses interactive discussions, videos and exercises to fully explore issues around diversity, such as: stereotyping, ableism, sexism, anti-semitism and heterosexism. The Violence Prevention component provides individuals with various conflict resolution and violence prevention techniques to effect change in their attitudes and behaviors.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS SQUADS

Once the training is completed, students then become part of a larger network called Human Rights Squads. Human Rights Squads are a group of young people dedicated to promoting diversity and ending violence in their local schools and communities. Human Rights Squads perform various service projects throughout the year to raise the awareness of the importance of diversity and violence prevention in their community.

