

Sense and Meaning

It is explained that if students cannot determine sense and meaning of new information presented by their teacher, the probability of learning the material decreases exponentially (Sousa, 48). This means that teachers need to give their students the opportunity to establish a good understanding of the topic and find relevance to their own lives. If a student cannot relate to the material, they will not devote the amount of attention or effort necessary to learn the information at hand.

In this web quest, meaning is stimulated because every student in one way or another has been affected by bullying. Meaning refers to relating the new learning to the students' lives. Whether they have been bullied, have been the witness to bullying, have been the bully or even participated in anti-bullying programs, they have their own experiences with the topic at hand. This personal familiarity with bullying will be **meaningful** for the students participating, and will ultimately encourage an emotional connection that will allow the new learning to be stored in long term memory.

Also, our main objectives for the students will be constantly reinforced throughout the lesson to help ensure that the learning makes **sense**. Sense refers to the information we obtain from learning. By the end of the lesson, it is our hope that the students will have a good understanding of what bullying is, how it affects others and positive strategies that can be utilized to combat bullying. The ideals of each goal are repeated numerous times through their research, activities and their final culminating project. The groups will be asked to apply what they learned about each goal, and present real solutions to deal with a hypothetical bullying situation that they can take with them long after the lesson is complete. If bullying situations are diminished, this will create an atmosphere where students feel safe to learn in the best possible learning environment.