

- P4: You sound like Captain Kirk in the old *Star Trek*. (brings laughs).
- P7: Yeah, but seriously, how come liberals get so worked up about a few dead school kids, but don't care about hundreds of thousands of murders of unborn children?
- P5: This is not about religion or abortion and it's not about taking away guns. It's about limited and practical anti-crime measures that most Americans and most cops support.
- P7: Give me a @#@\$#\$\$ break. The term "practical anti-crime measures" is just some fancy liberal talk for "gun control" and your appeal to cops is funny since liberals always support criminals and now suddenly want them for allies to stop guns.

FACILITATOR: Let's watch our personal attacks.

- P8: This is a child issue, not a gun issue. We are raising troubled kids. We abandon and alienate them.
- P5: So you don't think that giving guns to desensitized, angry, tense, and immature teens is a mistake? I think it's like giving gasoline and a lighter to a pyromaniac. We can't just ignore these events. All events have a larger meaning. We have to take a hard look at how we raise our kids, what our priorities are, and what we want our children to grow up believing.
- P2: The school is a symbol for me. It is a place that characterizes community, learning, respect, friendship. It is an experience that we all share together. All of us in this room went to school. I think, anyway. So the shootings do affect all of us. We can all relate to the horror that the kids must face when there is a shooting. We all have an interest in trying to stop the violence.
- P1: Yeah, there is a problem. If we don't stop school violence, it will spread to other areas. This is like a disease that has to be nipped in the bud. We must contain the problem now.

P2: I agree.

7:22 P.M.

FACILITATOR: It seems that there is some consensus that these shootings are a social problem. If so, what can government do about it? I guess this gets us back to the question of causes.

- P6: If the problem is things like values, can government really play a role? How can we expect passing a new law to solve a problem of the heart? Kids without hope or shame are the problem. It may be a cliché but people kill people. I'm more upset at the tobacco industry than gun manufacturers.
- P1: Absolutely, government can play a role. They don't have to condone murder like they do with abortion, they don't have to ban prayer in school, and they don't have to glorify pot smoking like they do.
- P2 TO P1: What does that mean?
- P1 TO P2: What does what mean?
- P2: The government glorifying pot smoking.
- P1: I mean that many of our leaders today openly admit that they smoked pot in college. Do you think that is a good symbol for our children? Can you imagine our founding fathers smoking pot and sleeping around? All of this is part of a larger agenda. The government is trying to change our values into accepting the philosophy of anything goes. Barack Obama admitted to drug use as a young adult—what kind of role model is that?
- P2: I don't think any of this matters.
- P1: I think it does.
- P2: Okay, let's talk about George W. Bush's DUI and drinking problem. You conservatives like to pick and choose your facts.
- P1: I'm not a conservative.
- FACILITATOR: Let's stop this and get back on track.