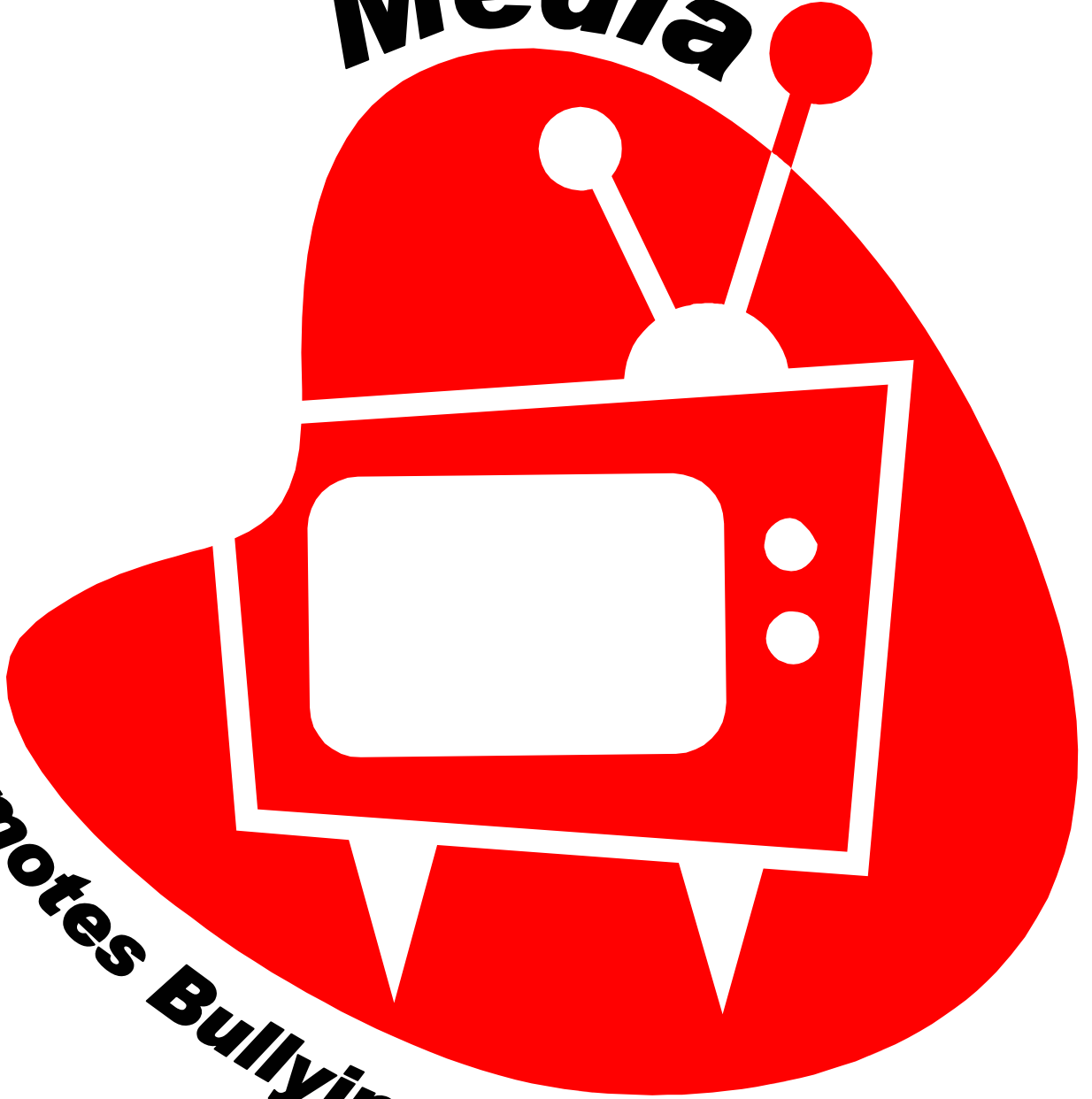


Media

Promotes Bullying Behavior



Media Promotes Bullying Behavior

Identify Problem: The media is filled with episodes packed with aggression which not only promotes but also celebrates bullying behavior. It often depicts the bully as the hero or at the very least it presents bullying behavior as normal and socially acceptable.

Exercise: Watch excerpts from popular television shows, movies, or cartoons which market bullying as funny, acceptable or heroic. Examples may include: Malcolm in the Middle, The Simpsons, Sandlot, Road runner. Use material that is mainstream and appropriate for youth. Have the students discuss how they felt as they watched the clip from each episode. Ask them to put themselves in the role of the bully. Discuss how each one felt. Ask them to put themselves in the role of the victim. Discuss how each one felt. Ask them to put themselves in the role of the bystanders. Again discuss how they felt. Have a discussion about how the outcome could have changed if each would have behaved differently.

Identify Skills:

- Students will learn to feel empathy for victims of bullying.
- Students will learn that the media is promoting unhealthy behaviors.
- Students will learn that aggression is not a healthy way to resolve conflict.

Source: Teresa Willie

