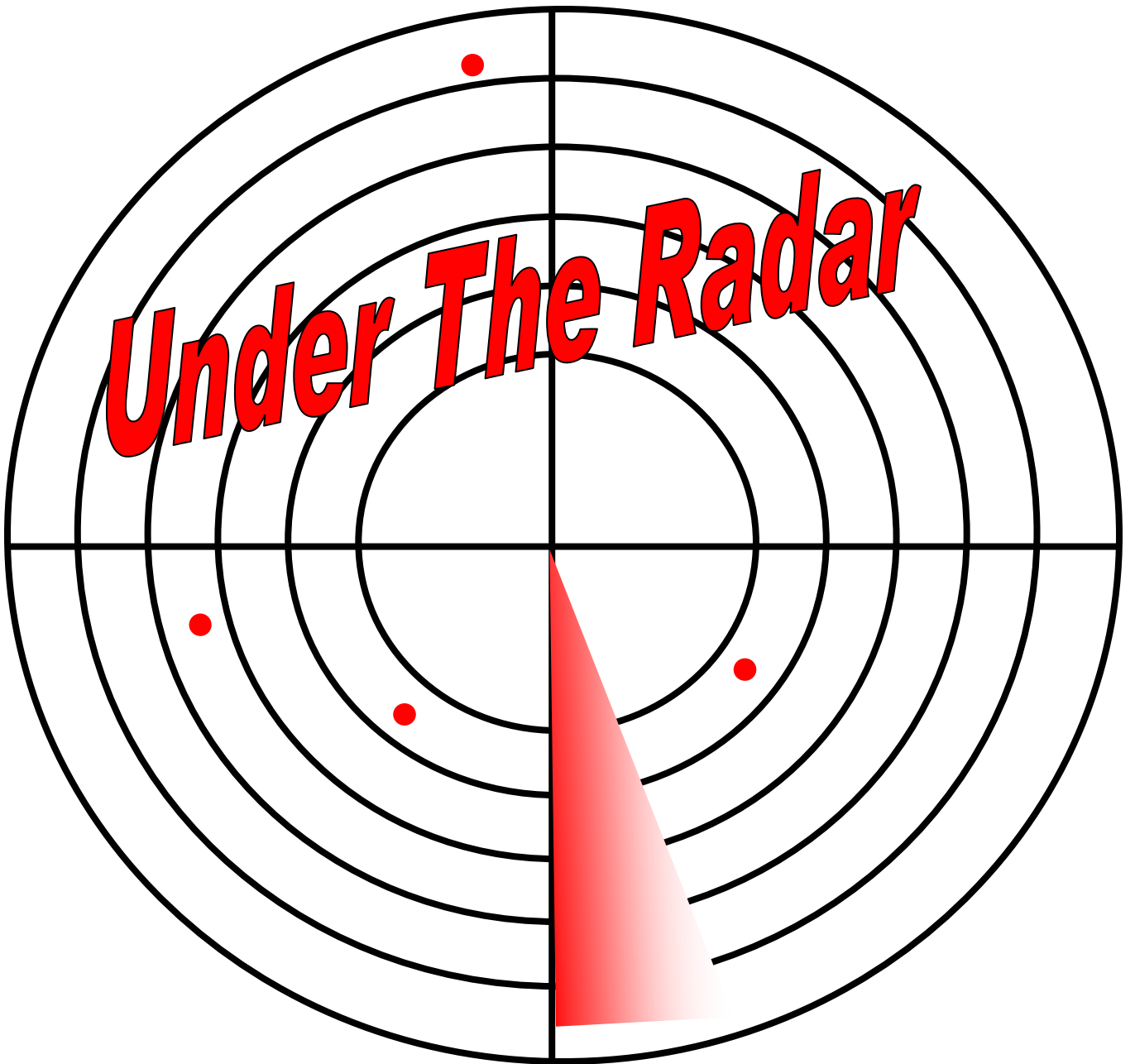


Under The Radar



Under the Radar

Identify Problem: As opposed to outward physical or verbal bullying, some youth (mainly girls) use more discrete methods for social posturing. They organize themselves into groups as a way to lend more power to their bullying behavior. “Under the Radar” bullying occurs with very subtle gestures or actions. For example girls may give a look, a stare, or whisper where the excluded can see but not hear what is being said. This kind of bullying and exclusion is harder for teachers or school personnel to pick up on because it is less obvious.

Exercise: Signs game. Have participants sit in a circle. Have each person choose a sign to represent them (it has to be somewhat subtle but something that can be distinctly recognized.) It must also not involve any sound. Someone is chosen to be in the middle. The person in the middle closes their eyes. Someone in the circle is chosen to start the game. They make someone else’s sign as they make eye contact with that person. That person receives the sign by making their own sign. They then make the sign of another person, and so on. The person in the middle tries to see who has possession of the sign. Whoever is caught with the sign has to be in the middle.

Discussion: Ask the people who had turns being in the middle:
Did you feel excluded? How so, or how not?
How frustrating was it for you to know that people were making gestures behind your back?
Have you ever had people laugh at you?
How did it make you feel?
Ask those who never had to be in the middle:
Did you feel you had the upper hand? How so, or how not?
How did it make you feel towards the people in the middle?
How does this game relate to bullying?

Identify Skills:

- Students will learn that exclusion can be hurtful.
- Students will help others feel included.
- Students will recognize when others bully “under the radar”.

Source: Teresa Willie

