



Peer Victimization: Creating a Culture for Learning and Safe Classroom Communities

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KEYWORDS Bullying; culture of learning; classroom communities; bullying behavior; classroom environment

ABSTRACT The most recent research on the topic of bullying reveals a common list of principles and patterns, which identify it. There is little consensus, however, on the relationship between classroom peer victimization and other forms of discrimination and violence in our society. This essay attempts, from a cross-national point of view, to suggest a link between the social atmosphere, and the classroom problem of bullying. It focuses on the classroom as a space where tensions are either harnessed in constructive ways through curriculum intervention or where destructive patterns such as peer-victimization emerge. The teacher transforms the classroom from a collection of individuals into a community. This process of transformation often determines how safe or unsafe each member feels in the classroom community.

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