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## Overview:

In his lecture on “Teens and Violence” at the University of Toledo, Detective Ryan Spangler of the Oregon Police Division explains the different types of domestic violence and how to resolve such situations.

## Summary:

Detective Ryan Spangler defines physical, verbal, emotional, sexual and digital domestic abuse in this excerpt, “Factors of Teen Domestic Violence” in order to raise awareness about teen violence. He describes two important and detrimental cycles teens might abuse in relationships and the effects of such abuses on their partners.

**ODE 9-12 STANDARD 1: *Health; Topic 1, Dating Violence Prevention***

## Discussion Questions:

1. Detective Spangler describes two common cycles in abusive relationships. How do you think someone could break out of an abusive relationship cycle?
2. Social media dominates teens’ lives, and has resulted in an increase in digital abuses such as name calling, exploitative sharing of private messages and pictures, and public humiliation. In what specific ways do you think digital abuse using these rapid-developing platforms has worsened?

## Activity:

Break the students up into groups and ask them to create a scenario that presents an unhealthy relationship. After allowing time to create the scenarios, ask students to answer the following questions within their groups:

1. What types of domestic abuse does your scenario contain?
2. How you would handle the situation?
3. Why is this situation unhealthy for both partners?

Then, each group will read their scenario to the class, and the remaining students will answer the same questions to see if their answers match up with the group presenting. Once everyone presents, discuss the importance of recognizing unhealthy teen relationships and domestic violence.

## Resources:

Break the Cycle: A supportive organization that provides a safe place to talk about abusive relationships and create awareness: <http://www.breakthecycle.org/>

An explanation of the positive aspects of teen relationships and the warning signs of negative, unhealthy relationships: <http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/healthy-relationship.html>

